

- "May 6, 2011"

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"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." (Carl Sagan)

Hello everyone,

This week marks the inaugural assembly of our campus' first-ever research committee. My sincere thanks are extended to Professor Del Lindsey for taking a leadership role as chair of this committee. In my Dean's List communication of March 4th, I had also expressed appreciation to faculty members Dan Amsterdam, Noelle Chao, Ozeas Costa, Dawn Kitchen, Bill Putikka, Tena Katsaounis, and Dennis Shaffer for agreeing to serve as members. I can now thank Heather Tanner, Associate Professor of History, for joining this group in order to better round out the representation of the humanities perspective on research.

There are a number of items on the agenda to be covered by this group, including some rather commonplace issues that cover the use of course release time and grant application budgets and deadlines. At the same time, however, there is a much more substantial and potentially culture-changing item on the research committee's agenda as well: increasing the student body's involvement in research on the OSU Mansfield campus. For this reason, I have asked three of our student leaders to serve on this committee, and I am grateful that Lyndsee Cooper, Faith Dickinson, and Keon Willis have agreed to represent the undergraduate perspective.

It is important to note that select students already are gaining invaluable research experiences on the OSU Mansfield campus. As evidence, we need look no farther than the upcoming Denman Undergraduate Research Forum, in which no fewer than seven of our current students are participants. Taking place on the Columbus campus this coming Wednesday (5/11), these students and their faculty advisors will be showcasing the breadth and depth of research opportunities available at OSU Mansfield. The Denman entries and student presenters include the following:

1. From Service to Cells: A Look at America's Incarcerated Veterans. Presented by Timothy Grix, Amber McClain, & Joshua Tatro (Advisor: Terri Winnick).
2. How the Media Affects Attitudes Towards Muslims. Presented by Bilal Ahmed (Advisor: Terri

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Winnick).

3. Proving Frances Burney as a Gothic Novelist. Presented by Lauren Gerhart (Advisor: Noelle Chao).

4. Unmanned Heroes: 18th Century Female Writers and Male Sentimentality. Presented by Marissa Baker (Advisor: Noelle Chao).

5. Nutrient Geochemistry of Lakes in Northern Ohio: Physical and Anthropogenic Controls. Presented by Corinne Aebersold (Advisor: Ozeas Costa).

My vision for the OSU Mansfield campus includes the notion that ALL students wishing to have research experiences on our campus will be able to do so, and that our current crop of students participating in the Denman Forum will grow seven times seven in the years ahead. If you know any of the current crop of Denman participants, please take a moment to congratulate them on their outstanding efforts. And in the meantime, as always please take the time to enjoy the weekend with family and friends!

Steve Gavazzi