

University Libraries Create Undergraduate Research Award

The University Libraries are delighted to award Theatre and Media Studies student Mary Robinson the first annual Undergraduate Research Award. Robinson's paper, "Poetry in Motion: The Divine Sarah on the English Stage" has also won accolades beyond UNCG. A version of the paper won the Southeastern Theatre Conference Young Scholar's Award, an honor given to just one undergraduate student each year. Robinson also presented her paper at the Comparative Drama Conference in Los Angeles.



Robinson wrote her paper on the famous 19th Century French actress, Sarah Bernhardt, for Professor Woodworth's Theatre History 501 Class. Robinson credits reference librarian Mark Schumacher for pointing her in the right direction. When Schumacher met with the class, Robinson learned about the many theater-specific resources available at Jackson Library. Schumacher spoke to the class about the Robert C. Hansen Performing Arts Collection, which proved particularly valuable to Robinson. As she wrote in her award application, the Hansen Collection's "archival material provided

insight into another era's theatrical practices, and I started to understand and appreciate the power of publicity, the role of media, and the star system during Bernhardt's lifetime. The library opened a new world of research options and strategies for me that otherwise would have been neglected or overlooked."

In her paper, Robinson looked at how Bernhardt, who never performed in English, was able to reach celebrity status on the English stage. Robinson combed through the numerous reviews of Bernhardt's performances in the English press and looked at many photographs of Bernhardt in costume to more fully understand the power of Bernhardt's stage presence. She argues that Bernhardt successfully employed pantomime, careful costuming, and vocal strength, range, and breath control to win over her audience. Robinson explains, "Despite differences in language, an aspect of her success lay in her ability to speak with the English on a deeper, profound and emotional level."

Robinson will graduate in December, 2010, and is considering pursuing master's degrees in both theater history and library and information sciences. We look forward to her continued success in the archives!

Telling Our Story: University Libraries Produce Short Videos

The University Libraries have created several short videos to better communicate with students and other patrons. One, created by the Libraries' Preservation Committee, is a humorous treatment of a serious topic: the importance of a clean environment for library materials. Entitled "Roach Movie," it features library faculty member Beth Ann Koelsch as a costumed cockroach. See <http://tiny.cc/ULpreservation>.

The second video, directed by Beth Filar Williams and produced and edited by Cheryl Cross, is "Ask Us @ UNCG Libraries." Asking what librarians do and what we can do for you, the video features UNCG students talking about their library and explores the various resources and services of the University Libraries. See <http://tiny.cc/AskUsUNCG>.

