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Two SBU students chosen for prestigious research program

Two St. Bonaventure University students have been selected to participate in a highly competitive summer research program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Jacob Donius, a junior, will attend a program in physics at the University of Idaho, while Troy Mulholland, a sophomore, will participate in a physics program at the University of Florida.

Jacob Donius Troy Mulholland

Students selected for the competitive Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program conduct research at a number of host colleges or universities across the nation. The REU appointments, awarded to students studying science, engineering or mathematics, are among the most prestigious summer programs available to undergraduates.

“The program was started by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a way of getting undergraduates involved in the type of research projects that are funded by the NSF at the large research institutions in the United States,” said Dr. John F. Neeson, chair of the Department of Physics at St. Bonaventure. “It is a realistic recognition by the NSF of the fact that large research institutions benefit from the talent pool of students that is developed in a spectrum of institutions that exist in the country.”

Donius will spend 10 weeks at the University of Idaho doing research with an active research group composed of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students. His award includes a \$4,500 stipend, housing and travel expenses.

Mulholland’s 10-week program at the University of Florida includes a \$4,700 stipend as well as housing and travel expenses. He will participate in 30 hours of research per week under the supervision of a faculty member.

Both programs include seminars, workshops, field trips and free time for students to explore their locales.

“We are delighted that Jacob and Troy have been chosen to participate in the summer 2009 programs,” said Neeson. “They join a list of students representing our Department of Physics that goes back to the inception of the program over 20 years ago. The faculty views our students’ participation in the program as a way of evaluating our best students but also as a means of evaluating the training we provide them.”

Donius is the son of Robert and Kim Donius of Alfred Station, N.Y. Mulholland is the son of Timothy and Belinda Mulholland of Dewittville, N.Y.

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Faculty member publishes dissertation on technology integration in the classroom

Claudette Thompson, D.Ed., an assistant professor in the School of Education at St. Bonaventure University, published her dissertation on technology integration and instruction.

The book, “Technology Instruction and Integration: Beyond Skills,” highlights how teachers may incorporate a well-known pedagogical strategy, peer tutoring with technology instruction and integration, to yield outcomes that go beyond technological skills.

While researching the book, Thompson found it interesting that the teachers in her research acknowledged the benefits of a collaborative approach to technology instruction and integration.

However, she said, “They (teachers) expressed concerns about the likelihood that predominant use of this technique may interfere with their accountability for students’ learning.”

She found that the more experienced teachers in her sample group are confident about their technology abilities and generally perceive this competence as an asset to their instructional responsibilities. One teacher in the over-50 age category noted, “I always liked to give technology instruction individually then use peer tutors with specific students.”

Thompson believes it is important that teachers be aware of the varying technological competence of students in a class. This may range from a student’s inability to simply log on to a computer to students being able to build Web sites with several interactive features. A peer tutoring approach to technology instruction or integration can expand the range of learning outcomes to include the more discreet but equally important affective skills such as cooperation, tolerance and self-esteem.

“I hope readers, particularly teachers, will acknowledge that many students, being born in the technological age, may be more technologically perceptive than they are,” said Thompson. This difference, she added, is ideal for cooperative learning.

Thompson’s scholarly work includes multicultural literature as part of a balanced literacy program, urban teacher preparation, and teaching for critical thinking.

She holds a D.Ed. in education, curriculum and instruction from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a master's degree in adult education and communications technology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor's degree in history with

social Sciences from the University of the West Indies.

Her book is available at www.amazon.com.

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Six to receive commissioning at U.S. Army ROTC ceremony

The St. Bonaventure University U.S. Army ROTC program will host its 2009 Commissioning Ceremony on Saturday, May 16, for six new second lieutenants going into the U.S. Army.

It will be the first commissioning ceremony at St. Bonaventure under the leadership of Lt. Col. Thomas G. Leitch, professor of military science, who assumed command of the ROTC unit last June. Lt. Col. Leitch and Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., university president, will address the newly commissioned lieutenants and their families.

Immediately after the ceremony, the new second lieutenants will participate in the silver dollar salute, a tradition in which each hands a shiny silver dollar to the first soldier who salutes him or her. Those who will be commissioned include:

- Jay G. Beeman II, a physics major from Bradford, Pa. Beeman enrolled in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) as a freshman, receiving a four-year scholarship to St. Bonaventure University. He is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School. Upon completion of the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, he was selected for commissioning as an engineer officer. As an ROTC cadet, he served as the battalion commander, battalion operations officer, Gold Bar Club vice president, and Ranger Challenge Team captain. Beeman is the son of Jay and Carla Beeman.
- Joshua M. Bode, a political science major from Dunkirk, N.Y. Bode enrolled in ROTC as a freshman, receiving a two-year scholarship at St. Bonaventure University. Upon completion of the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, he was selected for commissioning as a military police officer. As an ROTC cadet, he has served as the battalion logistics officer and Alpha Company executive officer. Bode is the son of Cheryl Kaminski.
- Timothy J. Condello, a sociology major from Rochester, N.Y. Condello enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2004 and was deployed to Iraq in 2005. He enrolled in the Leadership Course in his freshman year. He attended Officer Candidates School in the summers of 2007 and 2008. Once commissioned, he will spend six months in the Basic School at Quantico, Va., to determine his military occupational specialty. Condello is the son of James and Kate Condello.
- Solomon Hannan, a political science major from Avoca, N.Y. Hannan received a four-year ROTC scholarship at St. Bonaventure University. He is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School. Upon completion of the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, Solomon was selected for commissioning as a field artillery officer. As an ROTC cadet, he has served as the battalion commander and Alpha Company commander. Hannan is the son of Peter and Judy Hannan.
- Alan V. Morganti, a political science major from Cleveland, Ohio. Morganti enrolled in ROTC as a freshman and received a three-year scholarship at St. Bonaventure University. He is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School. Upon completion of the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, Morganti was selected for commissioning as an engineer officer. As an ROTC cadet, he has served as the battalion executive officer, Bravo Company commander, and the Gold Bar Club president. Morganti is the son of Andrea and Alan Morganti.
- Michael J. Reilly, a political science major from Wilmington, Del. Reilly enrolled in ROTC as a freshman and received a three-year scholarship at St. Bonaventure University. He is a graduate of the United States Army Airborne School. Upon completion of the Leadership Development and Assessment Course, he was selected for commissioning as an infantry officer. As an ROTC cadet, he has served as the Alpha Company commander and the Bravo Company commander. Reilly is the son of Thomas and Linda Reilly.

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Four students inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon

Four St. Bonaventure University sophomores were recently inducted into Pi Mu Epsilon, the National Honorary Mathematics Society.

Courtney Bosse, from Carmel, Ind., John Hasper, a physics major from Great Valley, N.Y., Nicole Markert, a mathematics major from Auburn, Ohio, and Troy Mulholland, a physics major from Dewittville, N.Y., make up this year's class of inductees.

All four students have excelled not only in mathematics, but in their own specific fields of study as well.

The National Honorary Mathematics Society, Pi Mu Epsilon, was established at Syracuse University in 1914. Since its founding the honorary has expanded to 300 chapters in North America. St. Bonaventure belongs to the New York Omega chapter.

The goal of the society is to encourage intellectual and scholarly activity among mathematics students.

To be inducted one must be an undergraduate with two years of math courses, including calculus, with a B average, and a ranking in the top one-third of the class. One can also be inducted if he is a sophomore math major with at least three semesters of math courses, including calculus, with an A in every course, and must rank in the top one-fourth of the class.

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Newsmakers for Spring 2009

Dr. John Mulryan, Board of Trustees Professor of English, attended and participated in the Northeast Milton Seminar, which met at Dartmouth College in April. He has also received a \$1,000 grant to pursue research on Milton and Dante at the University of Illinois.

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