

## COE Professor Supports Undergraduate Research

A research fellowship is typically a coveted assignment for graduate students. Of particular value to the student is the chance to work alongside nationally recognized research faculty, directly contributing to the advancement of scientific inquiry in a discipline. Thanks to an entrepreneurial and generous personal effort to establish a new program supporting research fellowships for juniors and seniors, University of Oregon undergraduates now have a similar opportunity to be involved in cutting-edge research.

In 1997, the College of Education's Professor Edward J. Kame'enui established the Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (URF). In the last three years, he has contributed \$30,000 of his own remuneration for research and outreach services. The Office of Vice Provost for Research at the University of Oregon was also instrumental in supporting the URF program during its initial development.

The Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program allows full-time juniors and seniors in any major area of study in the university the opportunity to work as Research Fellows in any discipline (e.g., psychology, sociology, education) at the University of Oregon. Dr. Kame'enui designed the URF program to encourage undergraduates to continue their studies in graduate school with a commitment to research. Students must be residents of Oregon, and fellowship positions are limited to three or four per school year. Admission to the program is competitive, and selected students take on the responsibility of choosing a research experience that meets the approval of the URF director. Students work with a professor in a research group approximately 10 hours a week. All Undergraduate Research Fellows are granted a tuition waiver for the entire academic year.

Ongoing administration and development of the program is carried out through the college's Institute for the Development of Educational Achievement (IDEA). As a research and outreach service institution, IDEA relies upon the scholarship of accomplished research scientists. Research guides the

design of best-practice models for school and community service agencies across a spectrum of needs. IDEA scientists also provide services to help these agencies apply their research to address the several goals of the IDEA mission, such as preventing school failure and dropout; the fostering of early literacy and reading; the design of effective curriculum and instruction in reading, mathematics, language development, social studies, and science; the development of successful school-to-work transition systems; the alignment of assessment, instruction, and curriculum content; the creation of standards-based learning environments; and the promotion of social and behavioral development, as well as the development of learning opportunities for talented and gifted students.

*The following University of Oregon undergraduates were awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship for the 2000-2001 academic year:*

- **Melissa Bilderback**, general science; Melissa will pursue her research in professional health care issues.
- **Jennifer Cameron**, comparative literature; Jennifer will research the emancipation of Jews in Europe (circa 1780-1850).
- **Sarah Michener**, geography; Sarah will explore alternative theories of changing poles.
- **Jeffrey (Luke) Williams**, psychology and Spanish; Luke will conduct a follow-up study on interpersonal attraction and the role of human evolution in the inhibition of sexual attraction.

Professor Kame'enui notes that the URF program was modeled after a similar program at Purdue University, where he served as a faculty member prior to coming to the UO. "The Undergraduate Research Fellows are an inspiration and represent future scientists and the future of science," says Kame'enui. "It is an enormous privilege to work with these students and their faculty preceptors as they learn about the process of inquiry in science."

*The undergraduate research fellowship fosters inquiry-based learning and enhances the student learning opportunities unique to an AAU research university.*