

Student Testimonials



Ryenne N. Ogburn

Performing research under Dr. Manning and the VSU undergraduate Chemistry QEP program has presented invaluable opportunities. Research projects encompassed the use of green technology, performing marine natural product synthesis, and increasing current cancer drug efficacy through the use of metal-binding. Works through these venues have resulted in two publications, co-authoring of a patent, presentation of research data through multiple professional symposiums and co-authoring a submittal of a novel cancer drug to the National Cancer Institute. Exposure to and involvement in advanced research has impressed upon me the opportunities that chemists have to improve cancer treatment, develop affordable/better/cleaner technologies and unlock the unlimited possibilities of product development using non-toxic and renewable resources. Overall, this combination of hard work and research experience made me a top candidate for admission to multiple analytical chemistry PhD programs on the East coast. I look forward to attending Duke University in the fall and passing on the same legacy to undergraduate students there.

William L. Gay will graduate in May 2012 with a B.A. in history. Through his undergraduate career, he has presented at Valdosta State University's Council of Undergraduate Research and at regional conferences on topics ranging from British cultural history to U.S. medico-military history. In 2011, he published in Valdosta State University's undergraduate research journal, *Omnino*, and participated in the History Department's QEP trip to the United States Military History Institute in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in transnational medical history. He will begin his graduate studies at Villanova University in Fall 2012.



William L. Gay



Alvinette Patterson

I am Alvinette Patterson and I am from Queens, New York. I recently graduated from Anthropology and Sociology with a concentration in Applied and Clinical Sociology major and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Something interesting about me: I have produced *The Vagina Monologues* for two years and I have acted in *The Monologues* for three years. This past summer I spent three weeks conducting ethnographic research on the El Paso, Texas - Juarez, Mexico border as part of a QEP sponsored Women's and Gender Studies Borderland Cultural Immersion Experience. I was able to learn how gender, race, and nationality impacts immigration issues. This was a life changing experience and has forever changed the way I view the world. If there is a rally or protest that wants to bring change on campus and beyond, I always want to be part of them! I am currently applying to the Marriage and the Family Therapy graduate program so I can take the next step in becoming a Sex Educator.

Interior Design is a focused career major with a competitive job search after graduation. Becoming a part of the QEP allowed for me to explore a different side of interior design and has opened up a new range of job opportunities. While focusing on assisted living facilities during my research, I have come to the understanding that design can be used to better the lives of older adults in the future. Not only is an interior designer uniquely qualified to create functional, livable environments for older adults; we are also able to produce a safe and healthy atmosphere that can enhance quality of life. After graduation, I plan to choose a career path that focuses on the improvement of interior design relevant to health care facilities and alternate housing. It will always be in my interest to use what I learned during my research in the QEP to help me with future design challenges.



Alden York