

Harris Manchester 2009 Summer Research Institute Visiting Fellows Selected

The Office of the Vice President for Research is pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Kristin Swenson, School of World Studies, and Dr. Lisa Abrams, School of Education as the VCU participants in Oxford's Harris Manchester College 2009 Summer Research Institute. Dr. Abrams has been selected as the first recipient of the Rosemary Holden Kelso Fellowship for her participation at the Institute.

Dr. Kristin Swenson, a faculty member in Religious Studies, will use her time at the Summer Research Institute to continue her research "investigating the cultural, political, and religious context of the ancient Near East during the transition from Babylonian to Persian control to determine how Cyrus II's Persia may have affected the development of the Bible." She will be able to take advantage of the resources in the various libraries at Oxford, as well as interactions with colleagues in Oriental Studies at the Oriental Institute, and Oriel College at Oxford.

Dr. Lisa Abrams, a member of VCU's Social Behavioral IRB Panel (Panel B) and an Assistant Professor of Research and Evaluation in the School of Education, has a particular interest in issues related to responsible conduct of research in educational settings. During her time at Harris-Manchester College in Oxford, Dr. Abrams will examine the similarities and differences between VCU and Oxford University's ethical review requirements and practices in regard to school-based research.

The Harris Manchester College Summer Research Institute draws scholars with diverse interests from many U.S. universities, to study and write while in residence at the week-long institute at Oxford. Details about this opportunity are available on the Office of Research website at: <http://www.research.vcu.edu/vpr/harris.htm>.