

Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies
Report to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Prepared For November, 1992 Meeting

The Committee on Honors and Interdisciplinary Studies (CHIS) has held two meetings so far this academic year. The Committee has nine faculty members and four student members.

1. Most of the Committee's efforts have focused on establishing the approval process for Summer, 1993 Monroe Scholar projects. In all, there will be fifty-six junior Monroes and up to ten sophomore Monroes who will be doing funded projects in the summer of 1993. Sophomores will be funded on a competitive basis, with preference to be given to students who anticipate funding from another source in the summer after their junior year, or who have a special opportunity (such as an internship in a U.S. senator's office) that may not be available in the summer after the junior year.

Each Monroe Scholar is guaranteed \$2,000 to support a summer project that will lead to "an intellectually broadening experience that is not easily available within the constraints of the regular academic year." Each student must submit a proposal that identifies: the project's goals; how the project, as outlined, is the best way to achieve these goals; a final "product"--a scholarly paper, lab report, essay, creative project (etc.) that summarizes and reflects on what has been learned. Juniors were required to submit their proposals by September 30, 1992; sophomores have until January 22, 1993 to turn them in.

Proposals from juniors were sorted by subject matter and distributed to the faculty members of CHIS for review. Each faculty member will work with approximately six students, helping them refine their ideas and providing them with advice about resources they should consult. Each student must secure the approval of his or her CHIS adviser.

2. CHIS is constituting a committee to evaluate the undergraduate degree program in Environmental Science. CHIS membership will include Heather MacDonald (chair) and Hans Tiefel. Additional members will be drawn from VIMS and Public Policy, and from the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Physics.