

1096-VQ-2163 **Steve Balady*** (sbalady@umd.edu), **Rebecca Black** (rblack1@umd.edu), **Josh Ballew** (jballew@umd.edu) and **Elizabeth Fleming** (fleming1@umd.edu). *We Started a Directed Reading Program And So Can You.*

The Directed Reading Program (DRP) pairs undergraduate students with graduate student mentors for semester-long independent study projects. We introduced this program to the math department at the University of Maryland in Fall 2011 and it has been growing rapidly in quantity and quality of participation. Over the past 6 semesters the DRP has had an average of 13 pairings per semester, with a total of 77 projects completed (see <http://drp.math.umd.edu> for details). Our talk will include a brief explanation of the program and its history, the challenges and questions we have faced, and an outline for how to establish a successful program.

The DRP enables undergraduates from a range of mathematical backgrounds to explore a mathematical topic or interest that may complement, extend, or even eclipse their mathematics coursework. Additionally these one-on-one pairings provide a rare and welcome space for undergraduate and graduate student interactions about mathematics as well as about the world of graduate study. We believe this program could be implemented at many institutions and we will discuss key steps for creating similar programs. The DRP is a feasible, practical, and successful means of engaging undergraduates with mathematics beyond the calculus sequence. (Received September 17, 2013)