The 3rd Annual Undergraduate Research Expo was held on April 20, 2016 in the Setzer Student Center, at Lamar University.

The EXPO Conference included 59 presentations, 98 Lamar University students, and 43 faculty mentor; representing 28 academic departments.

Dr. Jim Jordan, Professor and Chair of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences here at Lamar University was the plenary speaker for the conference.

This year at the EXPO faculty members commented on each presentation of the four colleges that participated and awarded the 1st and 2nd place winners from each college.

**College of Engineering:** TALK- 1st Place, Anthony Dundee; 2nd Place-Huy Luong, Scorpio Collins and Khalid Almutwa. POSTER-1st Place Manisha Patel and Progga Chirntoni; 2nd Place-Nicolas Nikoloutsos and Merideth Chilton. **College of Arts & Sciences:** Humanity (TALK) - 1st Place, Stephanie Bermudez; 2nd Place, Savannah Anderson-Bledsoe. Humanity (POSTER) - 1st Place, Bette Paredes; 2nd Place, Rachel Simmons. Science (TALK) - 1st Place, Natalie Hudson; 2nd Place- Jason Miller. Science (POSTER)- 1st Place, Jeremy Fam; 2nd Place, Michael Shepherd, Autumn Hardin & Yasmin Hamdan. **College of Education & Human Development:** 1st Place, Shelby Garbee; 2nd Place Lyndsey Dumesnil.

**Congratulations on a Job Well Done**
The Office of Undergraduate Research congratulations the 2016 Faculty Award Recipient: 
Dr. Xiangyang “Sunny” Lei

Dr. Xiangyang (Sunny) Lei is an Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Lamar University. She received her Bachelor and Master degrees from Beijing Institute of Technology in 1996 and 1999, respectively, and Ph.D. from Texas Christian University in 2006. Before joining Lamar University in the fall of 2008, Dr. Lei worked as a postdoctoral research associate at Institute for Tuberculosis Research of University of Illinois at Chicago. As a sole PI, Dr. Lei has been awarded two prestigious external research grants by the Welch Foundation and the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund program and three Lamar Research Enhancement Grants. Dr. Lei has published over 20 peer-reviewed journal articles. She also had enormous presentations at national and regional conferences. Dr. Lei was the recipient of University Merit Award in 2014.

Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers: Since Dr. Lei set up her research laboratory at Lamar around 2010, she has mentored 16 undergraduate researchers from a variety of departments, including chemistry, biology, chemical engineering, and psychology. Four students co-authored peer-reviewed journal articles. Almost all her students presented their research on a total of 18 different occasions at various levels including national conferences. Under her guidance, students have accumulated 9 different awards related to the presentation of their undergraduate research. Two students received OUR undergraduate research grants. Upon graduation from Lamar, her students have been accepted into the graduate programs at Rice University and the University of Texas at Austin and medical and dental schools.

Distinguished SPS Chapter Award

The Society of Physics Students (SPS) National Council awarded the SPS Chapter #3643 of Lamar University the Distinguished SPS Chapter for 2014-15 award. The Lamar SPS team was awarded $1,999.92. The team consist of Dr. Cristian Bahrim-Chapter Advisor, Keeley Townley-Smith-Project Leader, Mark Worth and Suzanne Wheeler. The SPS chapter project title was “Finding the shape of a glowing object from polarimetric measurements”.

“CONGRATULATION from OUR”
On April 27, 2016, The Office of Undergraduate Research announced nine winners for the Research Experience Undergraduate (REU) Summer Program funded by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and National Science Foundation (NSF). The Summer Program was divided into two sessions: a 6-weeks session and a 10-weeks session. The 6-weeks session recipients are Cameron Henry (Lamar University), Marcus Trent (Lee College), Shanna Walker (Lamar University), A’Quisha Morgan (Lamar University), Nicole Felix (Lamar University). The 10-weeks session recipients are Brianna Lawson (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), Shannon Ciccarello (Hollins University), Jaylen Lee (James Madison University), and Esmeralda Licea (Lee College). Faculty Mentors are Dr. Kumer Das and Dr. Jennifer Daniel of Lamar University and Mr. Curtis White of Lee College.

The participants have been awarded undergraduate research support along with a stipend. The REU program offers sophomores, juniors, and seniors from accredited U.S. colleges or universities the opportunity to perform summer research in the fields of big data analytics, data dimension reduction, text mining, and image processing. Students at this site will be engaged in all stages of the big data analysis cycle. Stat REU at LU is designed to spark and sustain a new excitement about undergraduate research throughout the statistics discipline.

On April 8, 2016, The Office of Undergraduate Research announced seven winners for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). This program is meant to motivate all undergraduate students to explore their field of study in creative activities and research, mentored by at least one LU faculty member. The recipients are Kristi Barnes-Speech and Hearing Sciences, Tristen Harris-Electrical Engineering, Hung Ho-Mechanical Engineering, Lukas Moravits & Mitchell Davis-Electrical Engineering, Luke Placette-Mechanical Engineering, Jennifer Watters-Chemical Engineering, and William Wheeler-Sociology.

Each student was awarded a $2,000.00 stipend and $1,000.00 is for research support and housing. The grant recipients will submit a final research report approved by their mentor on the project’s results by November 30, 2016.
Congratulations to Keeley Townley-Smith and James Ellis on winning the “East Area Competition”

1st Place, Keeley Townley-Smith
Electromagnetically Induced Transparency (EIT): The Mechanism and Its Applications in Modern Technologies.

2nd Place, James Ellis
Comparing Various Impedance Matching Networks for Radio Transmission

They both had the opportunity to compete at the East Area Region 5 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). The east area includes Louisiana, a part of Arkansas, and a part of Texas. The top two papers were able to move on to compete at the region level at the IEEE region 5 meeting in Kansas City, MO where James came in 4th with his paper.

Upcoming Events

FACULTY TALK

Thursday, August 25, 2016
Dr. Kurt Dyrhaug
Department of Art
Landes Auditorium

Thursday, September 29, 2016
Dr. Stefan Andrei
Department of Computer Sciences
Landes Auditorium

OUR Grant 2016-17
Application Deadline: September 30, 2016
Award Ceremony: November 9, 2016
University Reception Center

Conferences

4th Annual Texas STEM Conference
October 29, 2016
Abstract Deadline: October 7, 2016
Galloway Business Building

3rd Annual Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences & Education Conference
November 12, 2016
Abstract Deadline: October 21, 2016
Galloway Business Building

Join our newly formed student organization:
Promoting Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity