Awardees at the Eighth Annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Expo 2021

First Place in the Category
Best Presentation for O.U.R. Sponsored Research
and the Most Interactive Presenter

Talon Weaver
Major in Civil Engineering / Physics

“Identifying Solar Sources of the Most Geo-Effective Interplanetary Disturbances.”

Mentors: Dr. Evgeny Romashets and Dr. Cristian Bahrim
Department of Physics

Talon’s testimonial: “The Office of Undergraduate Research here at Lamar provided me with an opportunity to experience research and be involved in something much larger than myself. This experience has expanded my education and opened the door to career paths I did not believe were possible for me!“
EXPO 2021
SECOND PLACE IN THE CATEGORY
BEST PRESENTATION FOR O.U.R. SPONSORED RESEARCH
Rebekah Schilberg
Major in Chemistry – TALH student

“Rotational Signature of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) as Revealed by Molecular Rotational Resonance Spectroscopy.”

Mentors: Dr. Suying Wei and Dr. Sylvestre Twigirayezu
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Rebekah’s testimonial: “The Undergraduate Research program has allowed me to work on an important scientific problem that could have an impact on the public environment and beyond. As I progress through my academic and professional careers, I will use the lessons I learned from research to strengthen the decisions I make for my future.”
EXPO 2021

THIRD PLACE IN THE CATEGORY
BEST PRESENTATION FOR O.U.R. SPONSORED RESEARCH

Katherine Correa
Major in Drawing and Biology

“The Babe Zaharias Medals: Exploring Methods of Replication for a Promising Non-Contact Based Approach.”

Mentor: Dr. Robert Kelley Bradley
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Katherine’s testimonial: "I am truly honored to have been part of the OUR experience. The Office of Undergraduate Research has opened the doors of exploration for our interdisciplinary project, allowing us the opportunity to work with other universities and explore the use of technology for the replication of the historic Babe Zaharias’ medals."

(left) Katherine and Dr. James Kerwin from the Makerspace at Rice University SEA Cleanroom;
(right) Dr. Bradley, Katherine, and Dr. Bahrim.
EXPO 2021
CATEGORY “EARLY PHASE” RESEARCH LEVEL
FIRST PLACE
Kyra Rost
Major in Sociology

“Attitudes and Misconceptions of the Black Lives Matter Movement.”

Mentor: Dr. Stuart Wright
Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Criminal Justice

Kyra’s testimonial: "Thank you for awarding us the 'Best poster presentation' for the early-stage category. It further encourages us to test the assertion that significant progress has been made in racial equality and measure perceived effectiveness, awareness, and support for the Black Lives Matter movement."
EXPO 2021
CATEGORY “EARLY PHASE” RESEARCH LEVEL
SECOND PLACE
Jesse Odom
Mario Cisneros
Noah McGallion
Major in Construction Management

“Productivity, Cost, and Safety Benefits of Utilizing Concrete 3D Printing in the Construction Industry.”

Mentors: Dr. Zhe Luo and Dr. Minkyum Kim
Reese Construction Management Program

Jesse’s testimonial: "Our senior paper research finds that utilizing concrete 3d printers in the construction industry can lead to faster production rates, cost savings, and safer work environments. The EXPO 2021, held by the Office of Undergraduate Research, allowed our team an avenue to present our work before a panel of judges and our peers, providing us great feedback on our research studies."
Sierra Hunnicutt
Major in Speech and Hearing Sciences

“Knowledge and Awareness about Hearing Health and Conservation among College Students: The Use of Technological Devices.”

Mentor: Dr. Lilian Felipe
Department of Speech and Hearing

Sierra’s testimonial: “I would like to thank the O.U.R., as well as SURF and Dr. Bahrim and Dr. Felipe for allowing me the opportunity to participate in academic work I didn't know was possible. The experience I’ve gained from SURF has helped me to further pursue my studies within Audiology. My research was over the knowledge and awareness that college students possess over the use of technological devices and was conducted in hopes of early intervention to reduce the impact of music induced hearing loss from the misuse of technological devices.”

Great news! Sierra was accepted to join the Doctoral Audiology Program at Lamar University starting this fall.
EXPO 2021

CATEGORY “IN-PROGRESS” RESEARCH LEVEL
SECOND PLACE

Jill Culp
Major in Biology

“Fifty Year Temporal and Spatial Trends in Water Quality of Sabine Lake Estuary.”

Mentor: Dr. Matt Hoch
Department of Biology

Jill’s testimonial: “It was an honor to present my research over 50 year temporal and spatial trends in water quality of Sabine Lake Estuary at this year’s research Expo, and I am very thankful to my mentor Dr. Matthew Hoch for all of his guidance. Analyzing data from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, I determined the long term trends in common water quality parameters throughout the estuary concluding that temperatures have increased by 2° in the northern Gulf of Mexico and into the Sabine Pass region, salinity levels have increased throughout the estuary, and levels of chlorophyll a, nutrients are all elevated near the Port Arthur landing.”
EXPO 2021
CATEGORY “IN-PROGRESS” RESEARCH LEVEL
THIRD PLACE
Tim Cohrs
Major in Communication, Journalism concentration

“Civic Engagement in a Small Texas City.”

Mentor: Dr. Stephan Malick
Department of Communication and Media

Tim’s testimonial: “I am very honored to be a winner and even to present at the Undergraduate Expo this year. Engaging with the student body once again and showing this presentation is aligned with our mission to engage the community and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue this mission.”
EXPO 2021
CATEGORY “ADVANCED” RESEARCH LEVEL
FIRST PLACE
Ashley Staggs
Major in Speech and Hearing Sciences

“Impact of Dizziness on the Quality of Life and Prevalence of Falls in the Elderly Population of Beaumont.”

Mentor: Dr. Lilian Felipe
Department of Speech and Hearing

Ashley’s testimonial: “I am so grateful for this opportunity that SURF has given me. I am also thankful to Dr. Bahrim and Dr. Felipe for their support during this experience. This research has shown how prevalent the need for fall intervention is within the elderly community of Beaumont and how we as a community can assist with helping to find solutions for this problem. The knowledge I have gained from this project will carry with me as I pursue a PhD in research.”
EXPO 2021

CATEGORY “ADVANCED” RESEARCH LEVEL
SECOND PLACE

Jesus Torres
Major in Industrial Engineering

“Investigating Traffic Crashes Involving Autonomous Vehicles.”

Mentor: Dr. Yueqing Li
Department of Industrial Engineering

Jesus’ testimonial: "Autonomous vehicles are said to help prevent road traffic accidents and promote road traffic safety. Therefore, this study evaluated the safety performance of AVs and their related risk factors. For this study to have ranked second place in the advanced category highlights the significant social factor that AVs play today. With that said, we hope that our research will help AV manufacturers and the public to understand the safety performance behind AVs."
Maissa’s testimonial: "I presented research I had conducted over mail-in voting and addressed the concerns that were made against the practice. It was an honor to receive the Third Place “Best Presentation” Award in the Advanced Category; I am incredibly thankful for the Office of Undergraduate Research and Dr. Bahrim for giving me the opportunity to present my research."
AWARDS OFFERED BY THE CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS AND THE UPPER GULF COAST

Viviana Denova


Mentor: Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan
College of Business, Department of Finances and Economics

Katherine Correa

“The Babe Zaharias Medals: Exploring Methods of Replication for a Promising Non-Contact Based Approach.”

Mentor: Mr. Robert Kelley Bradley
Department of Industrial and System Engineering
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Herman McElroy

“The Strange Case of Mooney Allen: Lynching in Jefferson County, Texas, 1900-1910.”

Mentor: Dr. Jeff Forret
Department of History

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL Awardees at EXPO 2021 FOR THE JOB WELL DONE!

PLAN TO JOIN THE NEXT EXPO ON APRIL 15, 2022