Office of Undergraduate Research
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Summary of The 12th Annual O.U.R. Fall Conference

November 14th, 2025
Setzer Student Center
Lamar University

2025 O.U.R. FALL CONFERENCE



Dr. Brett Welch, Provost

The O.U.R. hosted its 12th Annual Fall Conference on November 14th, 2025, in the Setzer Student Center, bringing together students and faculty to showcase undergraduate research and strengthen academic collaboration. The event featured oral presentations, poster displays, guest speakers, a banquet, and an awards ceremony recognizing student achievements. Approximately 200 attendees participated, including students and faculty from Lamar University as well as visiting institutions such as the University of Tennessee Health Center, UT Dallas, UT Arlington, East Texas A&M, Texas A&M–Victoria and Western Kentucky University. The conference provided students with opportunities to present high-quality research, exchange ideas with peers and faculty, and learn about projects across a wide range of disciplines. Participants connected with researchers, Lamar faculty, and outside guests from academia and industry, while gaining insight into work being conducted beyond their own majors. The event highlighted the collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment that continues to grow at Lamar University.

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 AM	Registration / Greetings
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Poster Session I
9:00 - 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks
9:15 - 10:00 AM	**Plenary Talk I - Guest Speaker** Dr. Humberto Hernandez, Associate Professor of Biology, Director of Biology and Chemistry, Texas A&M University–Victoria
10:00 - 12:15 PM	Summer Student Research - Plenary Session
12:15 PM	Group Photo
12:15 - 1:00 PM	Lunch and Poster Session II
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Short plenary talks (i.e. Guests, Announcements)
1:15 - 2:00 PM	**Plenary Talk II - Guest Speaker** The Honorable Gordon Friesz, Family Court Judge, Jefferson County
2:00 - 4:00 PM	Breakout Sessions / Workshops
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Poster Session III
5:00 - 5:15 PM	Coffee Break
5:15 - 6:00 PM	Banquet
6:00 - 6:20 PM	**Plenary Talk III - Guest Speaker** Mr. Talon Weaver, Design Engineer III, Dashiell Corporation, Beaumont–Port Arthur Area
6:20 - 7:00 PM	URG Awards Ceremony
7:10 - 7:30 PM	Conference Awards

Office of Undergraduate Research
LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate and Graduate students and all faculty/staff are invited to:

The 12th Annual O.U.R. Fall Conference

Friday, November 14th
Setzer Student Center
Begins 8 a.m.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

For more information please contact us at **our@lamar.edu**

Priority Abstract Submission Deadline
October 25th

Guest Speakers



Dr. Humberto Hernandez
Associate Professor of Biology
Director of Biology and Chemistry
College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS)
College of Education and Health Professions (CEHP)
Vice-President of the Faculty Senate
Texas A&M University - Victoria
Bachelor of Science in Biology at Lamar U.
Plenary Talk I: 9:15 to 10am - Ballroom A&B



The Honorable Gordon Friesz
Family Court Judge
317th Civil District Court
Jefferson County, TX
Bachelor of Science in
Political Science at Lamar U.
Plenary Talk II: 1:15 to 2:00 PM - Ballroom A&B



Mr. Talon Weaver
Design Engineer III
Dashiell Corporation
Beaumont-Port Arthur Area
Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Lamar U.
Plenary Talk III: 6:00 to 6:20 PM - Ballroom A&B



12th O.U.R. Fall Conference

PLENARY SPEAKER

Dr. Humberto Hernandez

Associate Professor of Biology
Director of Biology and Chemistry
College of Natural and Applied Sciences (CNAS)
College of Education and Health Professions (CEHP)
Vice-President of the Faculty Assembly/Advisory Council
Texas A&M University - Victoria

Live Oak Ballroom, Setzer Student Center
9:15 to 10:00 AM - November 14, 2025

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Humberto Hernandez joined Texas A&M–Victoria in September 2019, where he serves as the Director of Biology and Chemistry, as well as Biosafety Coordinator for the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. He teaches in the Biology Undergraduate Program, the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program, and the College of Education and Health Professions. His research focuses on the role of aging, the microbiome, inflammation, and fibrosis in the development of ocular diseases such as Dry Eye, Keratoconus, and Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma. Using in-vitro cell culture models, his lab seeks to uncover molecular mechanisms and develop therapeutic targets for these conditions. His work has been funded by the NIH, the National Eye Institute, and internal Texas A&M–Victoria grants. Former students from Dr. Hernandez's lab are now pursuing Doctoral and Medical degrees, teaching in local schools and colleges, and working in biotechnology and related industries. He actively mentors students who want to engage in impactful biomedical research.

LECTURE: A JOURNEY THOUGH OCULAR RESEARCH AND RESILIENCE

Dr. Humberto Hernandez is a proud Lamar University Cardinal (B.S. in Biology, 2012), where his early research on plant hybridization and pathogen–host interactions sparked a lifelong fascination with the unseen world. He went on to earn his Ph.D. at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, where he was the first to demonstrate that conditional gene knockout in the eye could produce an ocular phenotype through gene therapy. He later completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, focusing on the ocular surface and aging.

Today, Dr. Hernandez blends his research expertise with his passion for teaching and mentoring, exploring the mechanisms of disease using cell culture models. In his presentation, he will share how his personal experience with an ocular condition inspired his scientific journey. As a first-generation college graduate, Dr. Hernandez will reflect on the challenges and rewards of his academic path, encouraging students to pursue their passions and reminding them that with perseverance and purpose, every dream is possible.

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12th O.U.R. Fall Conference

PLENARY SPEAKER

The Honorable Gordon Friesz

Family Court Judge
317th Civil District Court
Jefferson County, Texas

Live Oak Ballroom, Setzer Student Center
1:15 to 2:00 PM - November 14, 2025

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Gordon Friesz was born and raised in Nederland, TX. He is a lifelong resident of Jefferson County, and his roots run deep. He is a graduate of Nederland High School and Lamar University. After graduating from Lamar, he taught and coached for a brief period, and then attended South Texas Law School graduating in 2003. As an attorney, Gordon has devoted hundreds of hours of family law pro bono services. He has served as Vice President, Treasurer and Director of the Jefferson County Bar Association. Gordon is a past board member and volunteer with CASA, United Way, Nederland Little Dribblers and Nederland Little League. Gordon has had a law practice in Jefferson County since 2004. He has handled thousands of family law cases -divorces, child custody and CPS matters. He has served as a family law mediator in Jefferson County and surrounding areas. He is a Partner at Wells, Peyton, Partain, Baldo & Lighty, LLP. He is endorsed by the overwhelming majority of the practicing family lawyers in Jefferson County, and the Sabine Area Central Labor Council. Gordon Friesz now serves as Judge of the 317th Civil District Court, where he continues his commitment to fairness, integrity, and service to the people of Jefferson County.

JEFFERSON COUNTY TEXAS

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12th O.U.R. Fall Conference

PLENARY SPEAKER

Mr. Talon Weaver

Design Engineer III
Dashiell Corporation
Beaumont-Port Arthur Area

Live Oak Ballroom, Setzer Student Center
6:00 to 6:20 PM - November 14, 2025

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Talon Weaver graduated from Lamar University in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering. During his time at Lamar, he was engaged in conducting undergraduate research with Dr. Evgeny Romashets and Dr. Cristian Bahrim, all while serving as president of both ASCE and SPS. His research was recently published in the international Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, and Elsevier Publication. Talon, with the assistance of Dr. Bahrim and other dedicated students, co-founded LURA (Lamar Undergraduate Research Association) to introduce students to undergraduate research opportunities and provide aid as needed during the process. Currently, Talon is an engineer for Dashiell Corp. He also serves as a mentor in Dashiell's mentorship program, which helps guide new hires through the transition from university to professional life. In his personal time, he is a supply pastor on Sundays. He and his wife, Katlynn, have one daughter, Aubrey. Talon consistently demonstrates a willingness to donate his most precious resource: time.

LECTURE: ASKING QUESTIONS AND FINDING PURPOSE

One of the most difficult tasks about graduating is finding a career that offers mental, physical, and financial fulfillment. Undergraduate research at Lamar allows students the opportunity to hone problem-solving skills and gain a better understanding of topics that interest them. While transitioning from an academic mindset to a corporate culture can be challenging, the fundamental skills you develop during your research will provide continuous value and insight as you grow in your career.

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DASHIELL CORP.

2025 O.U.R. FALL CONFERENCE















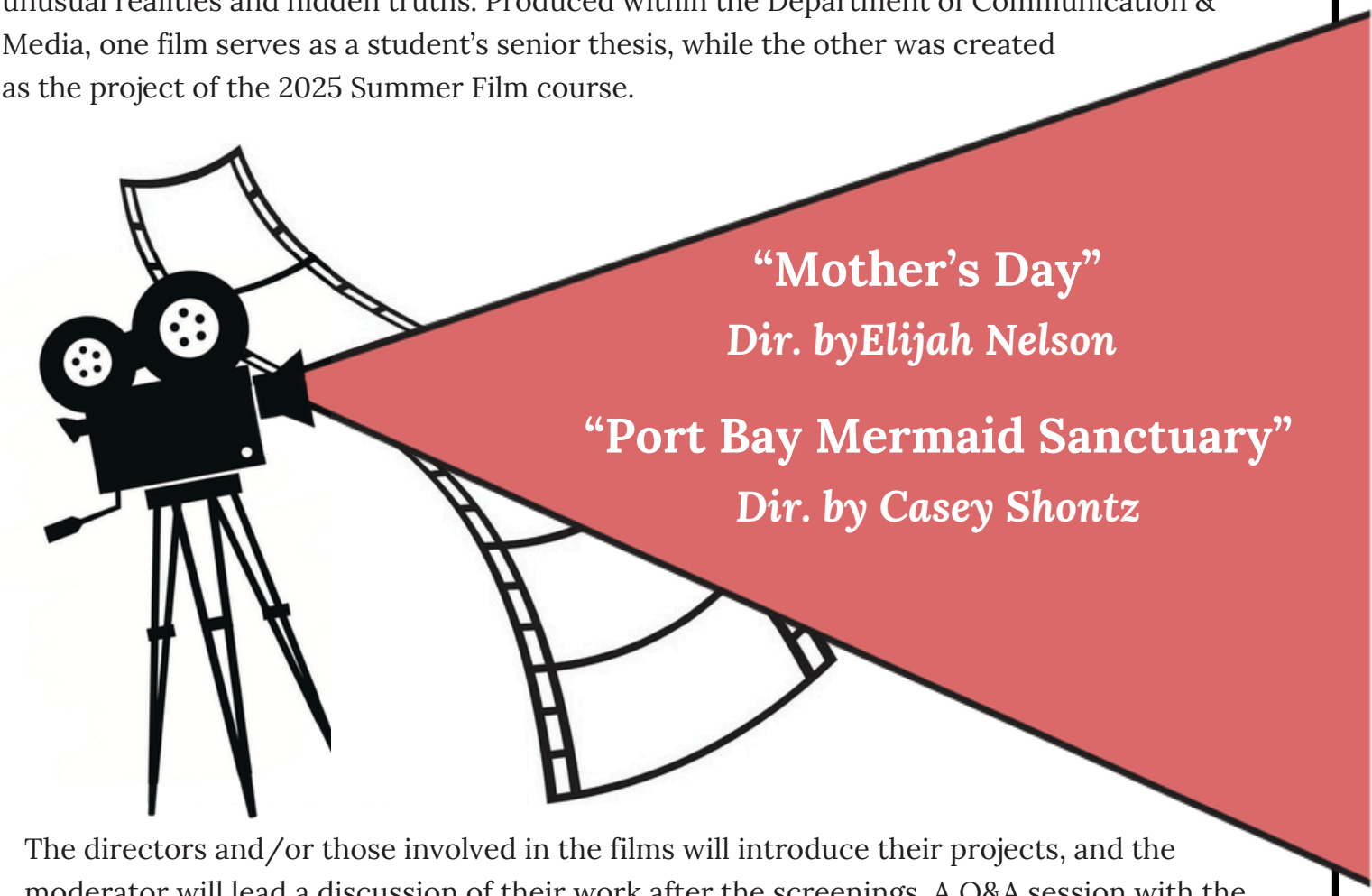
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Fantastical Narratives! Communication & Media Short Film Showcase

Friday, November 14, 2025 from 3:15 - 4:00 PM

Moderator: Andre Favors
Student Panelists: Elijah Nelson and Casey Shontz

In this panel discussion, Lamar University students present two short films that delve into unusual realities and hidden truths. Produced within the Department of Communication & Media, one film serves as a student's senior thesis, while the other was created as the project of the 2025 Summer Film course.



The directors and/or those involved in the films will introduce their projects, and the moderator will lead a discussion of their work after the screenings. A Q&A session with the audience will be included.

The directors are past and present members of Red Beak Productions, an LU student organization of passionate filmmakers and creatives continually seeking opportunities to work to improve themselves and their craft. Any LU student is welcome to join the organization. If you are interested, please contact Adan Baeza (abaeza@lamar.edu), president of Red Beak Productions.

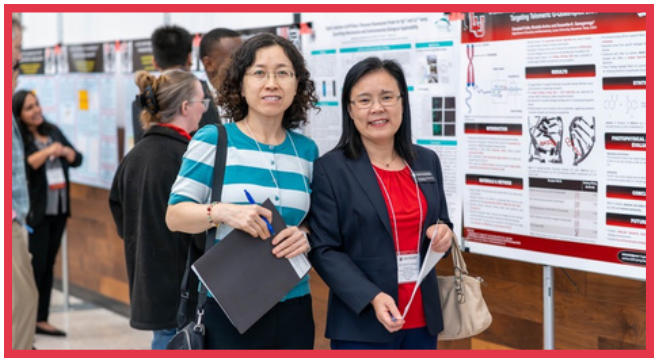
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Thank you, Upper Administration, for your participation and support!

- **Dr. Samuel Jator,** Senior Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies
- **Dr. Gene Theodori,** Associate Provost for Academic and Research Administration
- **Dr. Brett Welch,** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- **Dr. Jill Killough,** Associate Dean of College of Fine Arts and Communication
- **Dr. Mustapha Jourdini,** Executive Director of Global Education Center
- **Dr. Xiangyang (Sunny) Lei,** Senior Associate Dean, Research and Student Success
- **Dr. Jing Zhang,** Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences











Welcome to our Plenary Speakers!

Thank you, alumni speakers!

- *Dr. Humberto Hernandez*, **Associate Professor of Biology, Director of Biology and Chemistry, Texas A&M University - Victoria**
- *Mr. Talon Weaver*, **Design Engineer III, Dashiell Corporation Beaumont - Port Arthur Area**
- *Hon. Gordon Friesz*, **Family Court Judge, 317th Civil District Court, Jefferson County, TX**







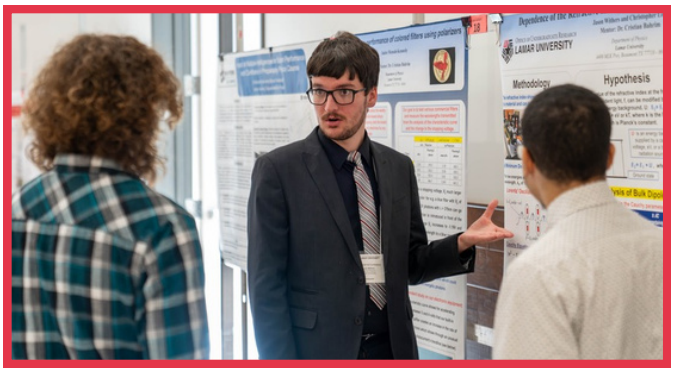


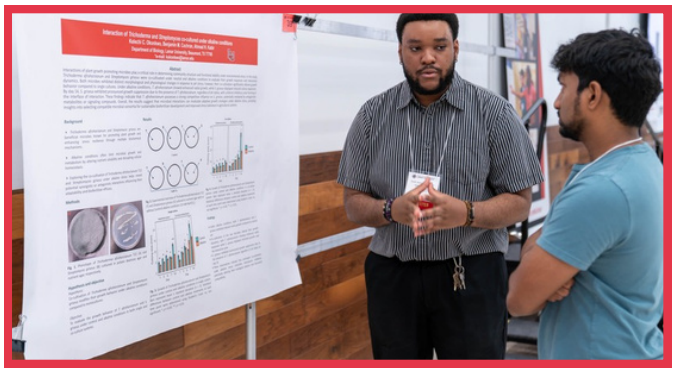


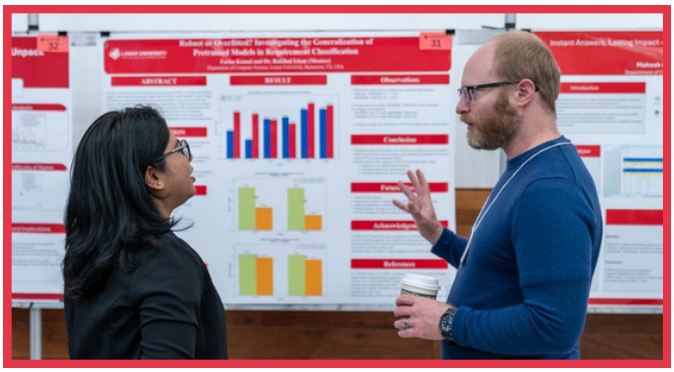

Thank you, Poster Presenters!

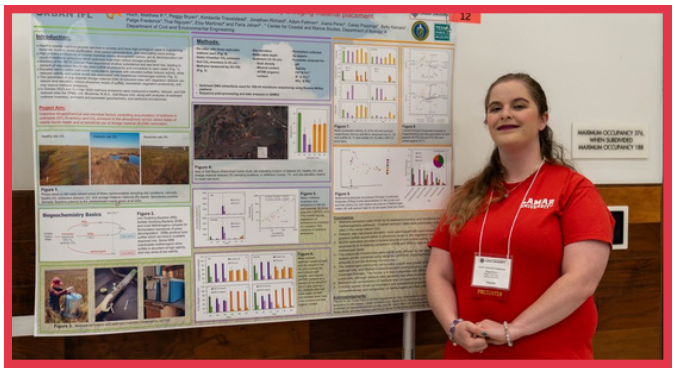


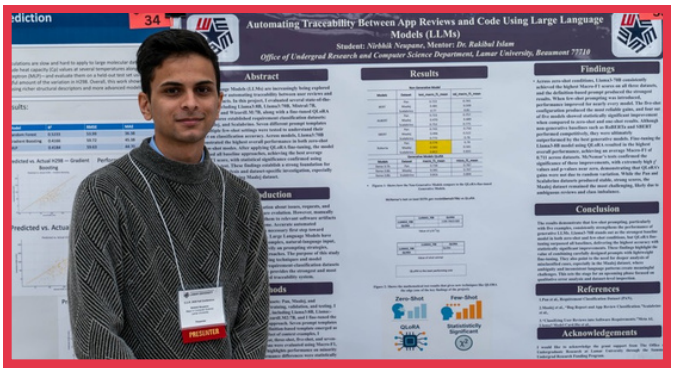


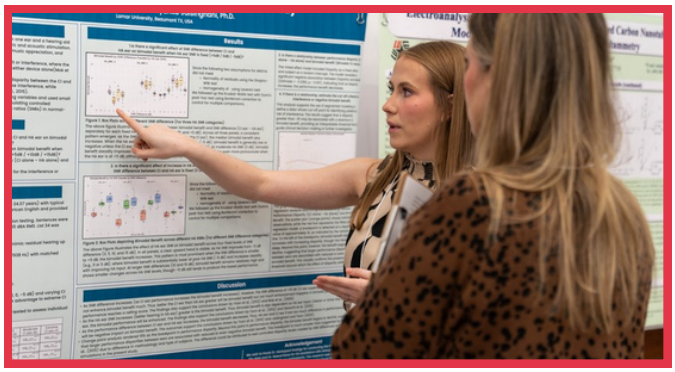




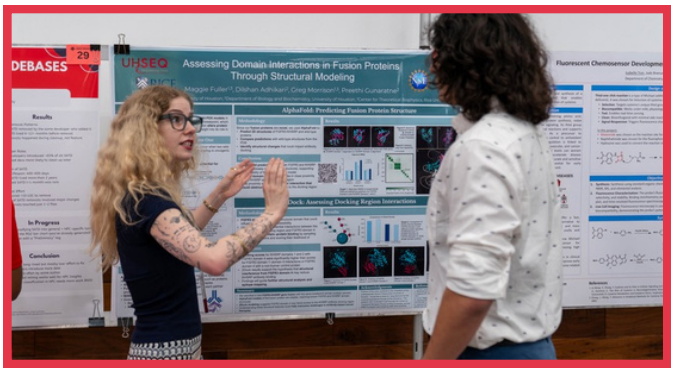




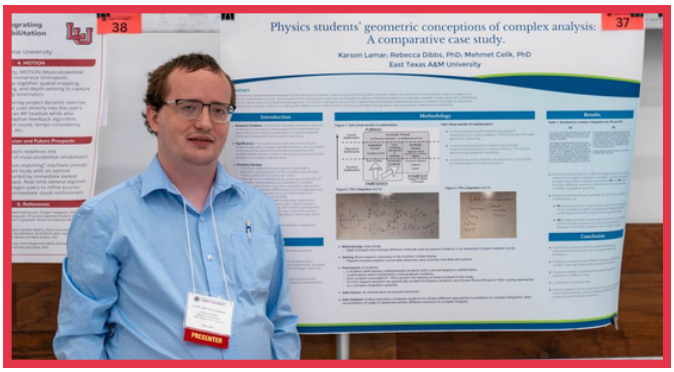


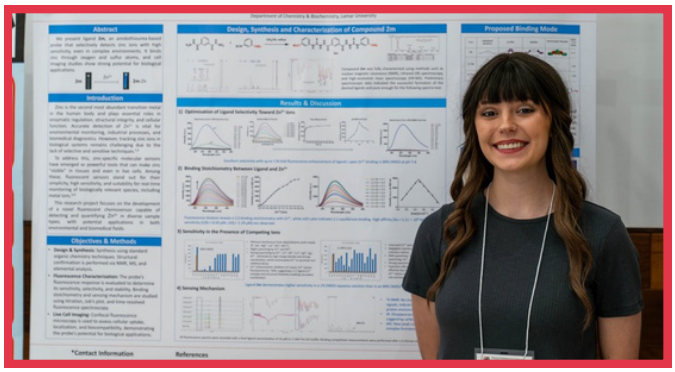


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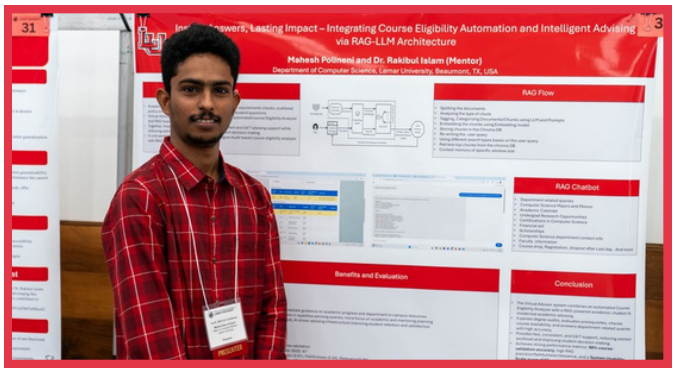


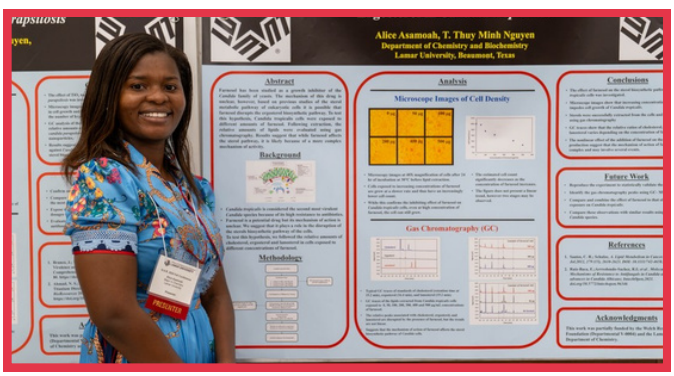


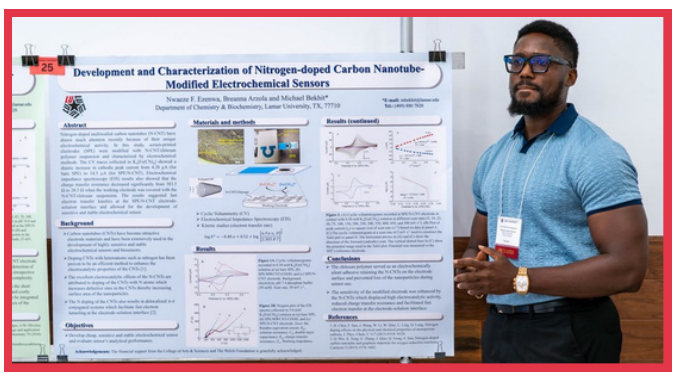












Thank you, Oral Presenters!

















Thank you, Oral Presenters!

















Thank you, Visitors!



Karson Lamar





Nicholas Cox

EAST TEXAS A&M



Mohammad Abdullah Al Zubair Naim

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER



Maggie Fuller

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Thank you, Visitors!



Muhammad Haider



Melodee Seifi & Victoria Rash



James Clemson



Sadia Rahman Jhilik

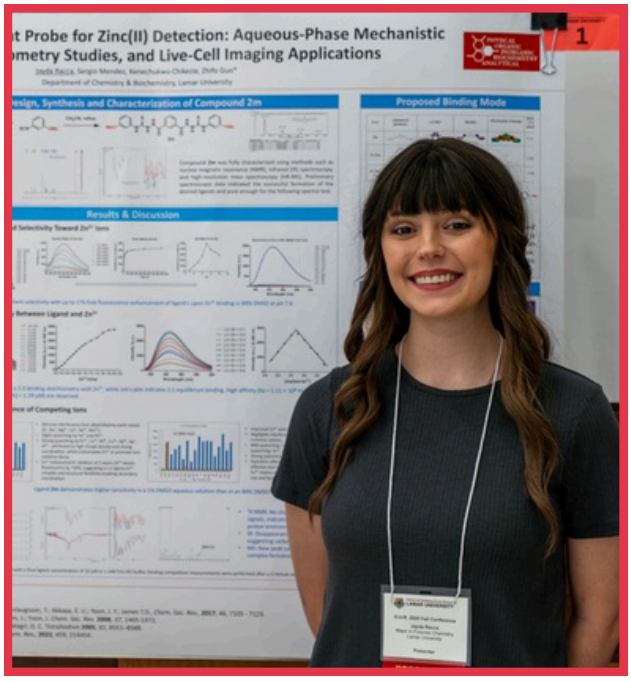
Thank you, special programs, Beck & McNair for your participation!



Sergio Mendez
2025 McNair Scholar
Reaud Honors Program



Harvest Fairchild
2024 McNair Scholar
2025 David J. Beck Fellow



Jayda Racca
Reaud Honors Program



Mohamed Irhabi
2025 David J. Beck Fellow
Reaud Honors Program

Welcome, Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA)!

Thank you, Ms. Memory Basile!

Ms. Basile is the Student Outreach Chair of The Texas Environmental Health Association.



Ms. Basile extends a cordial invitation to participate at

TEHA 2026 Annual Educational Conference

October 5-9, 2026

Dallas/Fort Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club
at Champions Circle - Fort Worth, Texas

SAVE THE DATE

70 YEARS

Honoring Our Legacy.
Leading the Future.



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Thank you, Chairs and Judges!











Thank you, Chairs and Judges!











Thank you, Mentors!


Dr. Yan


Dr. Boult

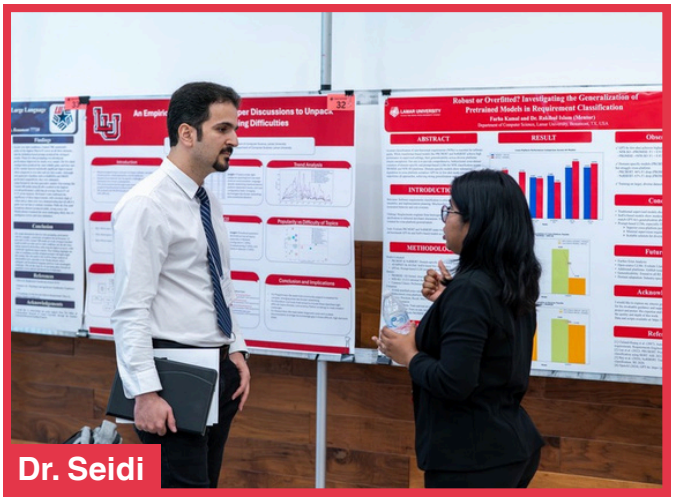
Dr. Bradley


Dr. Kucknoor


Dr. Twagirayezu


Dr. Liu


Dr. Ojeda-Ruiz


Dr. Seidi

Thank you, all presenters and participants, for your effort to make this event successful!















Dr. Samuel Jator, Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies - Opening Address

Detailed Agenda of the 2025 O.U.R. Fall Conference

Friday, November 14th, 2025

Poster Session I

Ballroom A&B
(8:00 - 9:00 am)

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Samuel Jator, Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Lamar University
(9:00 am)

Introduction of Dr. Humberto Hernandez

by Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor, Professor of Biology
(9:05 am)

Plenary Talk I - Guest Speaker

Dr. Humberto Hernandez, Associate Professor of Biology, Director of Biology and Chemistry, Texas A&M University–Victoria
(9:15 - 10:00 pm)

Summer Student Research - Ballroom A & B
Chairs: Dr. Robert Kelley Bradley and Dr. Cristian Bahrim

10:00 AM	**Priya Rathore and Arif Ayna, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Thinesh Selvaratnam**
	"Bioremediation of Industrial Mine Wastewaters Using Galdieria sulphuraria."	
10:15 AM	**Layali Abusaleh, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Sylvestre Twagirayezu**
	"Investigation of Thermally Energized Petroleum Mixtures Using Molecular Rotational Resonance (MRR)."	
10:30 AM	**Andy Qi, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Robert Kelley Bradley**
	"Systematic Study of Silicone Elastomers: Formulation, Testing, and Open-Source Data Sharing."	
10:45 AM	**Mackenzie Howell and Ashley Junot, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Yan Yan**
	"Elementary Children's Screen Time Effects on Sociometric Status."	
11:00 AM	**James Addison III, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Binod Nainabasti**
	"Role of Group Test on STEM students' success in Physics class."	
11:15 AM	**Evan Wolford, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Mr. Andre Favors**
	"How the Breaking Bad Universe Subverts "The Hero's Journey."	
11:30 AM	**Mohamed Irhabi, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor**
	"The Eye as a Window to the Brain: Advancing Neurovascular Disease Detection through Retinal and Corneal Imaging."	
11:45 AM	**Rangana Ratnayake, Western Kentucky U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Ajay Srivastava**
	"Molecular Profiling of Cathepsin L–Dependent Transcriptional Networks in Drosophila Wing Development."	
12:00 PM	**Nicholas Cox, East Texas A&M U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Heungman Park**
	"Degradation and Protection of Semiconducting Polymer Thin Films in Martian Atmosphere."	

Lunch and Poster Session II

(12:15 - 1:00 pm at Ballroom A&B)

Short Plenary Talks - Ballroom A&B

12:50 - 1:00pm - Mr. Karson Lamar from East Texas A&M - Commerce will give a talk about Mirabeau Lamar's legacy.
1 - 1:10pm - Ms. Memory Basile, the Student Outreach Chair for the Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA) will give a short talk about her company and the opportunities offered to our students for working with TEHA. TEHA will offer a booth during the conference.

Introduction of Judge Gordon Friesz

by Dr. Bianca Easterly, Associate Professor of Political Science
(1:10 pm)

Plenary Talk II - Guest Speaker

The Honorable Gordon Friesz, Family Court Judge, Jefferson County
(1:15 - 2:00 pm)

Recognition of The Honorable Gordon Friesz

Presented by Dr. Brett Welch, Provost of Lamar University
(2:00 pm)

Breakout session A.1 - Ballroom A&B
Chair: Dr. Zhaozhong Shi

2:00 PM	**Xavier Grundler, East Texas A&M U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Bao-An Li**
	"Bayesian Quantification of the Observability and Equation of State of Twin Stars."	
2:15 PM	**Melodee Seifi, UT Dallas**	**Mentor: Dr. Jason Slinker**
	"Analysis of DNA Electrochemistry with Electrochemical Impedance Spectroscopy."	
2:30 PM	**Carlos Davila, East Texas A&M U.**	**Mentor: Dr. william Newton**
	"Neural Network method used to improve the Bayesian analysis of neutron star models."	
2:45 PM	**Sadia Rahman Jhilik, UT Arlington**	**Mentor: Dr. Muhammad N Huda**
	"First-principles study of point defects in SiC."	

Breakout session A.2 - Sabine 1
Chair: Dr. Xuejun Fan

2:00 PM	**Muhammad Luqman Haider, UT Dallas**	**Mentor: Dr. Jeong-Bong (JB) Lee**
	"Wireless Micropump and Pressure Monitoring System for Inducing Bone Formation Through Intramedullary Pressure Modulation."	
2:15 PM	**Md Ashraful Hoque, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Chun-Wei Yao**
	"Nanomaterial-Enhanced Superhydrophobic Coatings for Superior Corrosion Resistance, Mechanical and Tribological Durability: A Comprehensive Nanoscale Characterization."	
2:30 PM	**S M Yeasin Habib, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Xuejun Fan**
	"Thermal Modeling of Die-DRAM Stacked Multichip Packages Using 1D Thermal Resistance Network and Finite Element Analysis."	
2:45 PM	**Akbar Ali, UT Dallas**	**Mentor: Dr. Jason Slinker**
	"Color-Turnable Perovskite Light-Emitting Electrochemical Cells."	

Breakout session A.3 - Sabine 2
Chair: Dr. MD Masud Rana

2:00 PM	**Meet Arvindbhai Monpara, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Tauhidul Alam**
	"Aerial Detection of Individuals in Flooded Regions."	
2:15 PM	**Naga Mani Gajula, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Masud Rana**
	"Graphene Quantum Dots: Types, Properties, Biomedical and Cancer Applications, Machine Learning Integration."	
2:30 PM	**Umar Saleem, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Masud Rana**
	"Graphene Quantum Dots and Cyber Twins: AI-Driven Optimization for Sustainable Energy Systems."	
2:45 PM	**Sahithi Kopuri, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Masud Rana**
	"Anomaly detection in Graphene Quantum Dot Synthesis in Bio medical and Energy Applications using Isolation Forests and One Class SVM."	

Breakout session A.4 - Cypress 125 & 127
Chair: Prof. Andre Favors

2:00 PM	**Evan Wolford, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Andre Favors**
	"Censorship?: An Analysis of Discourses of Kendrick Lamar's Broadcast Performances."	
2:15 PM	**Joshua Patterson, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Andre Favors**
	"Mental Health Representation and Messaging in Summer 2025 Superhero Films."	
2:30 PM	**Regina Ruiz, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Sheila Springer**
	"Stars, style, and controversy: How ad campaigns influence hard hitting conversations."	
2:45 PM	**Justin Ford, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Adrienne H. Blackwell-Starnes**
	"The Misunderstanding of Batman: Arkham Origins."	

Breakout session B.1 - Ballroom A&B
Chair: Dr. Shannon Jordan

3:00 PM	**James Clemson**	**Mentor: Dr. Charles Durfee**
	"UV Triggered Two Color Interferometric Measurement of Electrostatic Discharge."	
3:15 PM	**Victoria Rash, UT Dallas**	**Mentor: Dr. Jason Slinker**
	"Determining AfXPB's Dissociation Constant using DNA Electrochemistry."	
3:30 PM	**Kayode Adeoye, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Paul Bernazzani**
	"Investigating the Potential of an Amylose/Pectin Composite for Organic Contaminants Remediation."	
3:45 PM	**Mohammad Abdullah Al Zubair Naim, Tennessee U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Csaba Kovesdy**
	"Triglyceride-lowering Lipid-lowering-therapies in elevating HDL-cholesterol in patients with chronic kidney disease."	

Breakout session B.2 - Sabine 1
Chair: Dr. Raymond Doe

3:00 PM	**Sergio Mendez, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Ashwini Kuchnoor**
	"Arbovirus detection in mosquitoes of Jefferson County, Texas."	
3:15 PM	**Jason Withers, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Cristian Bahrim**
	"Can Changes in the Environmental Temperature Modify the Optical Characteristic of a Medium?"	
3:30 PM	**Kamaile Hernandez-Linkee, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Raymond Doe**
	"The Psychological Benefits of Playing Chess."	

Breakout session B.3 - Sabine 2
Chair: Dr. Don Warren

3:00 PM	**Naman Subedi, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Bo Sun**
	"Object Store for ML Storage Needs."	
3:15 PM	**Ronish Shrestha, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Masud Rana**
	"Integrated AI System for Data Forecasting, Disease Prediction, and Image-Based Analysis using Machine Learning and Deep Learning."	
3:30 PM	**Evy Benson, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. J. Donald Warren, Jr.**
	"From Expert Systems to GenAI: The Evolution of Internal Auditing."	
3:45 PM	**Michael Vu, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Damie Kurash**
	"Can We Exploit Abnormal Stock Returns from Effective Date Delays?"	

Breakout session B.4 - Neches 120
Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Casey

3:15 PM	**Carolina Hernandez, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Zanthia Smith**
	"¡OYE! Abre tus ojos: To Hispanic/Latino Sign Language Interpreter Hardships."	
3:30 PM	**Kenidy Bennett and Maryah Javed, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh**
	"Body Image and Eating Habits: Exploring How Body Image Perceptions Affect Nutrition Among Middle School Students."	
3:45 PM	**Thendral Nageshwaram, Lamar U.**	**Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh**
	"Exploring Digital Resilience in Elementary Preservice Teachers."	

Poster Session III

Ballroom A&B
(4:00 - 5:00 pm)

Banquet

(5:15 - 6:00 pm)

Plenary Talk III - Guest Speaker

Mr. Talon Weaver, Design Engineer III, Dashiell Corporation, Beaumont–Port Arthur Area
(6:00 - 6:20 pm)

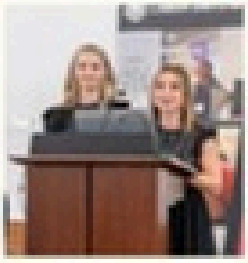
URG Awards Ceremony

Hosted by Dr. Gene Theodori, Associate Provost for Academic and Research Administration
(6:20 - 7:10 pm)

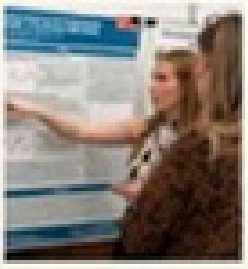
Conference Awards

Hosted by Elizabeth Sanders, Director of Learning & Research of the Mary and John Gray Library
(7:10 - 7:30 pm)

12th Annual O.U.R.Fall 2025 Conference Award Winners



Winner for Oral Presentation
Undergraduate HASBSEB category
Advanced Research Level
Winners: Mackenzie Howell and Ashlyn Junot
Mentor: Dr. Yan Yan
Department of Curriculum & Instruction, Lamar University
"Elementary Children's Screen Time Effects on Sociometric Status."



Winner for Poster Presentation
Graduate HASBSEB category
Advanced Research Level
Winner: Abigail Proctor
Mentor: Dr. Priyanka Jaisinghani
Department of Speech & Hearing, Lamar University
"The Role of Cochlear Implant-Hearing Aid Performance Disparity in Bimodal Benefit: A Controlled SNR Study."



Winner for Oral Presentation
Graduate STEM category
Advanced Research Level
Winner: Muhammad Luqman Haider
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, University of Texas at Dallas
Mentor: Dr. Jeong-Bong (JB) Lee
School of Engineering and Computer Science, Baylor University
"Wireless Micropump and Pressure Monitoring System for Inducing Bone Formation Through Intramedullary Pressure Modulation."



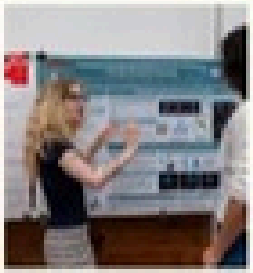
Runner-up for Oral Presentation
Graduate STEM category
Advanced Research Level
Winner: James Clemson
Mentor: Dr. Charles Durfee
Department of Physics, Colorado School of Mines
"UV Triggered Two Color Interferometric Measurement of Electrostatic Discharge."



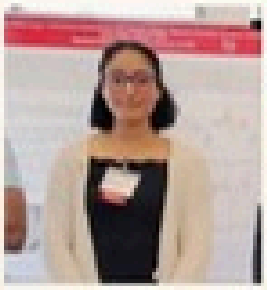
Winner for Poster Presentation
Undergraduate STEM category
Advanced Research Level
Winner: Ryan Servantes
Mentor: Dr. James Annacost
Department of Biology, Lamar University
"Correlation Between Human Foot Traffic and Angel Wing Syndrome in Ducks, in Southeast Texas."

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12th Annual O.U.R.Fall 2025 Conference Award Winners



First Place for Poster Presentation
Undergraduate STEM category
Early-Phase and In-progress Research Levels
Winner: **Maggie Fuller**
Mentor: Dr. Gregory Morrison
Department of Physics, University of Houston
"Assessing Domain Interactions in Fusion Proteins Through Structural Modeling."



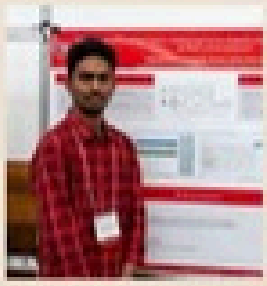
Second Place for Poster Presentation
Undergraduate STEM category
Early-Phase and In-progress Research Levels
Winner: **Zoe Hagar**
Mentor: Dr. Ahmad Kabir
Department of Biology, Lamar University
"Beneficial Fungus Trichoderma afroharzianum T22 Promotes Salinity Tolerance in Sorghum (Sorghum bicolor)."



Third Place for Poster Presentation
Undergraduate STEM category
Early-Phase and In-progress Research Levels
Winner: **Peggy Bryan**
Mentor: Dr. Matt Hoch
Department of Biology, Lamar University
"Controls of Methane Emissions in the Coastal Marshes of the Texas Chenier Plain Experiencing Subsidence and Restored by Dredging Material Placement."



Winner for Poster Presentation
Graduate STEM category
In-progress Research Level
Winner: **Chukwudike Eric Enem**
Mentor: Dr. Thuy Minh Nguyen
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Lamar University
"Effect of TiO2 Nanoparticles on the Sterol Biosynthetic Pathway of Candida parapsilosis."



Runner-up for Poster Presentation
Graduate STEM category
In-progress Research Level
Winner: **Mahesh Babu Polineni**
Mentor: Dr. Rakibul Islam
Department of Computer Science, Lamar University
"Instant Answers, Lasting Impact: Transforming Academic Advising through AI."

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12th Annual O.U.R.Fall 2025 Conference Award Winners



Winner for Oral Presentation
Undergraduate STEM category
Advanced Research Level
Winner: **Jason Withers**
Mentor: Dr. Cristian Balarin
Department of Physics, Lamar University
"Can Changes in the Environmental Temperature Modify the Optical Characteristic of a Medium? ."



Winner for Oral Presentation
Graduate STEM category
Early-Phase and In-progress Research Levels
Winner: **Sergio Mendez**
Mentor: Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor
Department of Biology, Lamar University
"Arbovirus detection in mosquitoes of Jefferson County, Texas."



Winner for Oral Presentation
Undergraduate HASBSEB category
Early-Phase and In-progress Research Levels
Winner: **Kamaile Hernandez-Linkee**
Department of Computer Science and Department of Mathematics
Lamar University
Mentor: Dr. Raymond Doe
Department of Psychology, Lamar University
"The Psychological Benefits of Playing Chess."



Winner for Oral Presentation
Graduate STEM category
In-progress Research Level
Winner: **Akbar Ali**
Mentor: Dr. Jason Slinker
Department of Physics, University of Texas at Dallas
"Color-Tunable Perovskite Light-Emitting Electrochemical Cells."

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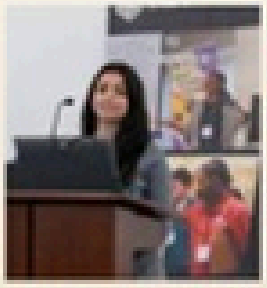
12th Annual O.U.R.Fall 2025 Conference Award Winners



Winner for Oral Presentation
Graduate STEM category
In-progress Research Level
Winner: **Kayode Adeoye**
Mentor: Dr. Paul Bernazzani
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Lamar University
"Investigating the Potential of an Amylose / Pectin Composite for Organic Contaminants Remediation."



First Place for Oral Presentation
Best Summer Undergraduate Research category
Winner: **Mohamed Irhabi**
Mentors: Dr. Ioannis Petropolous
Division of Research in Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine–Qatar
and Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor
Department of Biology, Lamar University
"The Eye as a Window to the Brain: Advancing Neurovascular Disease Detection through Retinal and Corneal Imaging ."



Second Place for Oral Presentation
Best Summer Undergraduate Research category
Winner: **Layali Abusaleh**
Mentor: Dr. Sylvestre Twagirayezu
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Lamar University
"Investigation of Thermally Energized Petroleum Mixtures Using Molecular Rotational Resonance (MRR)."



Third Place for Oral Presentation
Best Summer Undergraduate Research category
Winner: **Priya Rathore and Ayna Arif**
Department of Biology, Lamar University (Priya)
Department of Physics, Lamar University (Priya)
Department of Psychology, Lamar University (Ayna)
Mentor: Dr. Thinesh Selvaratnam
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Lamar University
"Bioremediation of Industrial Mine Wastewaters Using Galdieria sulphuraria."

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Reaud Honors College Awardees



From left:

Dr. Samuel Jator

Dr. Shannon Jordan

Sergio Mendez (awardee)

Dr. Zhifo Guo

Jayda Racca (awardee)

Dr. Gene Theodori

S.A.G.E. Awardees

From left:
Dr. Samuel Jator
Regina Ruiz (awardee)
Mr. Andre Favors
Harvest Fairchild (awardee)
Dr. Gene Theodori



It was such an honor to receive the SAGE award for my research. My work is highly encouraged by the female experience, as a queer woman of color, it is very important to me to inform people on the effects of stereotypes and sexualization upon women. Presenting my work at the OUR conference was an amazing experience that I will cherish in the future. I learnt a lot about research during my writing and will be utilizing all my teachings to improve my upcoming work.

-Regina Ruiz

My study explored how religious values shape the reception of asexuality, analyzing the extent to which it is acknowledged as a valid orientation versus merely tolerated under moral and theological frameworks. I wanted to better understand how both conservative and queer spaces, contribute to a broader understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics affecting asexual individuals and their place in diverse communities as an asexual person myself.

-Harvest Fairchild

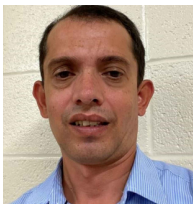
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Join L.U.R.A. today!

What L.U.R.A. offers:

The Lamar Undergraduate Research Association (L.U.R.A.) was founded in Fall 2019 to fulfill the need for a community *by* and *for* undergraduate students to discuss, collaborate, and learn how effectively one can conduct research. The consistent quality and volume of research conducted by undergraduate students at Lamar University has made it clear that there is a need for an organization to act as a vital resource for building young researchers. Thus, L.U.R.A. provides an academic forum that connects all level students from freshmen to seniors with their professors and mentors and facilitates communication between LU undergraduates and their peers around the nation.





L.U.R.A. provides information about:

- Research opportunities inside and outside of Lamar
- Better ways to deliver undergraduate research results in poster and oral presentations
- Ways to perform peer-mentoring
- Organizing workshops and panel discussions on various topics, including how to successfully apply to graduate schools

The Office of Undergraduate Research provides strong support and offers logistics for this student organization. For more information, contact URALamar@gmail.com or visit the Office of Undergraduate Research – Archer Physics 100-D.

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