

2024-25 UR Grant Winners

College of Business

Dean Joby John, Ph.D.

11

Nikbin Ali % | Accounting and Finance |

Rahman Abrar % | Electrical Engineering |

% Texas Academy Student

Mentors: Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan and Dr. Don Warren

Department of Accounting and Finances

HASBSEB Project: "Improving the Construction Permitting Process in SETX through Technological Integration."

All faculty, staff, and students of Lamar Community are cordially invited to The 12th Annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity — EXPO 2025, which will be held on April 23-24 in the Setzer Student Center. The EXPO event is a campus-wide celebration of all students who participate in scholarly research & creative activities from all academic areas.

The abstract submission
and registration deadline

April 10th, 2025



The EXPO 2025



BANQUET SPEAKER

Mr. Larry Touns

Adjunct Associate Professor
Space Architecture Graduate Program
University of Houston

Live Oak Ballroom of Setzer Center
April 23, 2025 - from 6:00-7:00pm

SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

Larry Touns is currently in the Exploration Mission Planning Office at Johnson Space Center supporting the agency's Evolvable Mars Campaign work. He joined NASA in 1994 and worked in the International Space Station (ISS) Program Office. From 1998-2006 Mr. Touns assumed the role of Habitability Systems Lead in the ISS Vehicle Office. Prior joining NASA Larry was a Senior Engineer with Lockheed Engineering and Sciences Company at Johnson Space Center. In this role, he provided technical support for JSC's New Initiatives Office in the area of Systems Engineering of habitats and planetary systems and contributed to numerous NASA studies. Mr. Touns assumed the position of Adjunct Professor at Chalmers University, Sweden in addition to his NASA responsibilities. In this role he has been involved with research related to sustainability of terrestrial homes of the future and the linkage of that research to deep space habitation. Larry Touns earned a BArch degree and after practicing architecture for 14 years, a Master's Degree from the University of Houston.



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LAMAR UNIVERSITY

We welcome Mr. Larry Touns' talk about "Space Architecture Research at NASA"



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URG Awards Ceremony

November 15, 2025

Archer bldg. — Room 108

1:00 — 3:00 pm

The 2024-25 undergraduate research grant (URG) program recognizes twelve grant winners for eleven research projects in the five academic colleges. Three grant winners are from the Reaud Honors College and three are from the Texas Academy. The grant proposals have been reviewed and scored by 35 faculty with expertise in closely related research areas. The winning research projects received scores between 75% and 94%. This year we selected 5 STEM and 6 HASBSEB projects. Each U.R.G. winner receives \$700 stipend, up to \$1,000 in research support, and \$300 in travel support from university funds. The 2025 U.R.G. projects will be presented at EXPO 2025, on April 23-24, as a talk or poster. President Taylor, the Office of the Provost, the Advisory Board members of O.U.R., and all faculty reviewers heartily congratulate the twelve U.R.G. winners and their mentors for this nice achievement, wishing everyone to enjoy a great research experience and have inspiration in developing a successful project.

Dr. Cristian Bahrim, Director of O.U.R.

Important Dates for Spring 2025

January 24 — URG Kick-off Day

February 26—28 — Mid-term report (conversation with the Director of O.U.R.)

April 5 — Submission deadline of narratives for the EXPO 2025 (Mandatory)

April 23-24 — EXPO 2025 (starts at 8:00am) will be hosted in the Setzer Center. All URG awardees are required to present his/her research at this event.

May 31 (Monday) — Final Report is due

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LAMAR UNIVERSITY



2024-25 UR Grant Winners

College of Arts and Sciences

Interim Dean Rebecca Ard Boone, Ph.D.

1

Natalie Bean ^{\$} | Nursing |

Mentor: **Dr. Gina Hale**

JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing

HASBSEB Project: "Generating Educational Materials on Firearm Safety:
Action to Promote Public Safety."

2

Brianna Magdaleno | Biology |

Mentor: **Dr. Kole Kubicek**

Department of Biology

STEM Project: "Optimizing Acid-Free Clearing and Double Staining for Small Vertebrate Skeletons."

3

Austin Robertson | Computer Science |

Mentor: **Dr. Jane Liu**

Department of Computer Science

STEM Project: "Predicting Future Deforestation Hotspots Using Deep Learning and Satellite Images."

4

Jason Withers | Physics |

Mentor: **Dr. Cristian Bahrim**

Department of Physics

STEM Project: "Fundamentals of Light-Matter Interaction for Explaining Optical Phenomena."

College of Engineering

Interim Dean Tracy Benson, Ph.D.

5

Mololuwa Oloyede [%] | Electrical Engineering |

Mentor: **Dr. Cagatay Tokgoz**

Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

STEM Project: "A Comparative Study of Monopole Antennas Using Various Simulation Methods."

^{\$} Reaud Honors College Student

[%] Texas Academy Student

2024-25 UR Grant Winners

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Dean Golden Wright, Ph.D.

6

Allison Deras | Speech and Hearing Sciences |

Mentors: **Dr. Priyanka Jaisinghani**

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

HASBSEB Project: "Classroom Seating and Auditory Capabilities in Students with Hearing Loss."

7

Alexa Heng ^{\$} | Sociology |

Mentors: **Dr. Sheila Springer** and **Dr. Nicki Michalski**

Department of Communication and Media

HASBSEB Project: "Navigating Sexual and Emotional Communication in Generation Z
University Situationships."

8

Harvest Prater | Speech and Hearing Sciences |

Mentor: **Dr. Paul Prezas**

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

HASBSEB Project: "Simulative Role: Disclosing Broca's Area Aphasia
Post-Ischemic Stroke to Health Advocates."

College of Education and Human Development

Dean Alberto Ruiz, Ph.D.

9

Ashlin Stinson | Interdisciplinary Studies EC-6 |

Mentor: **Dr. Yan Yan**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

HASBSEB Project: "Enhancing Student Behavior and Engagement through Whole Brain Teaching
in an Elementary English Language Arts Classroom."

10

Jenny Xiaoxuan Tu ^{\$} | Exercise Science |

Mentor: **Dr. Shannon Jordan**

Department of Health and Kinesiology

STEM Project: "Landing Mechanics and Muscle Activation in Modern Dancers."