

NEWS & EVENTS

The Office of Undergraduate Research

VOL. 1

Issue 2

Dr. Kumer P. Das,

DIRECTOR

Jasmine D. Fields,

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

“*The Office of Undergraduate Research has a mission of inspiring undergraduate students from all majors to explore their field of study and engage in research and creative activities.*”

2014 Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences Conference

We are excited to announce our upcoming conference on

November 15th

We encourage all students to attend this conference. It is a great way to support fellow students and get information and inspiration for your own research project.

**REGISTER
NOW**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED:

Don't forget to have your online registration complete & all monies turned into the Office of Undergraduate Research by **October 31st** to avoid Late Fees.

Discover Research Opportunities

Discovery is the gateway for undergraduate students to engage in incredible opportunities in creative research projects across the disciplines of science, humanities, and the arts.

Visit the Discover tab on the webpage, to see an online database of open research positions available to undergraduate students. All undergraduate students are able to access this information, pursue the opportunities and apply for research.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences Conference

November 15, 2014

Lucas Engineering, Lamar University

8 am–5 pm

Faculty Talk

Speaker: Dr. Brian Craig, *Department Chair*

University Scholar Department of Industrial Engineering

November 20, 2014

Location: Landes Auditorium

2 pm–3:30 pm

Undergraduate Research Expo

April, 20, 2015

Setzer Student Center, Lamar University

Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) Advanced Workshop

CUR Advanced Workshop Connecting Undergraduate Research to Other High Impact Practices at the University of San Diego from November 21-23, 2014

A team of LU faculty has been selected to attend one of two advanced technical workshops at the Council on Undergraduate Research's NSF-funded Workshop Program for State Systems and Consortia on "Connecting Undergraduate Research to Other High-Impact Practices." Members of the team are: Dr. Kumer Das, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research; Dr. Cristian Bahrim, Associate Professor of Physics and mentor to LU's two recent Goldwater Scholars; Dr. Matthew Hoch, Associate Professor of Biology; and Dr. Jennifer Daniel, Associate Professor of Mathematics and a co-PI of LU's acclaimed STAIRSTEP program.

The Office of Undergraduate Research is proud to announce

'The 2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Expo'

April 20th, 2015

This Expo will be set up to accommodate students who wish to display their research with posters, or with an oral presentation. Interested in getting involved with undergraduate research? Need a mentor? Check out our website which includes mentors by department and their research interest.



Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol

Transforming Texas Through Undergraduate Research is the theme for the 2015 Undergraduate

Research Day at the Capitol. This event will provide an opportunity to showcase the experiences of undergraduate students, engaged in research for Texas legislators and the public, through high-quality poster displays. In addition, the program will highlight how research conducted by undergraduate students positively impact Texas -- and Texans. *Lamar Team led by Dr. Kumer P. Das, Dr. Cristian Bahrim, and Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor— one student will be selected to attend the event..*

"The experience I had through the Undergraduate Research grant provided me with invaluable research experience that enriched my education in many ways. As a graduate student, I am so thankful that I was acquainted with the research process as an undergraduate as it provided me with critical knowledge that is essential when it comes time to write my thesis. I would encourage any undergraduate to get involved with research!"

— Lindsey Sorrell, Speech and Hearing Sciences (2013 Grant Recipient)

**Student Expressions:
How OUR affects
YOU..**

Cancer Research Opportunity, Summer 2015

We invite your best students to apply for the NIH/NCI-funded Pediatric Oncology Education Program (POE). The program offers a unique opportunity for pre-doctoral students preparing for careers in the biomedical sciences, medicine, and pharmacy to gain biomedical and oncology research experience. Students participate in basic or clinical oncology research, research and clinical conferences, and a core lecture series designed specifically for them.

For more information

<http://www.stjude.org/poe>





Student Highlight Presents...

Audrene Edwards: *"Shakin' Things Up"*

Math major Audrene Edwards has won a national award in a statistics competition. Her project "Shakin' Things Up: Using the Statistical Approach to Model Natural Disasters" came in 3rd Place in the Undergraduate Research Project Competition (USRESP) competition sponsored by the American Statistical Association and the Consortium for Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education. Her project was mentored by Dr. Kumer Pial Das of Mathematics. "In the face of strong competition from around the country your project rose to the top!" says the Steering Committee chair Dr. Nathan Tintle of Dordt College. Audrene is a senior and she is from Dallas, TX.

O.U.R. hosts Texas STEM Conference '14

The 2nd Annual Texas STEM Conference was held on Saturday, October 4th in the Lucas Engineering Building, at Lamar University. The popular all day event brought together over 120 local and out of town students, educa-

tors and mentors, with some of the most innovative conducted research. Since it began, last year, the Texas STEM Conference has grown in popularity and star quality. The event continues to attract national partners and sponsorships from all over. Throughout the sessions, attendees were encouraged to engage in the presentations of researchers, everywhere from Sam Houston to El

Dr. Jerry Cook, our keynote speaker, supported the Conference with professional stories and motivational encouragement to current and potential undergraduate researchers. This year, the students represented a total of 6 colleges; Sam Houston State University, St. Edward's University, El Paso Community College, University of Texas- Arlington, University of Houston- Clearlake, and our very own-Lamar University. For many, it was their first experience at a STEM Conference, complete with breakout sessions and exhibit presentations. There were also over 25 local middle and high school students that participated in the conference, to gain interest and hands on experience with a collegiate level conference.



Paso Community College, to help gain knowledge and application to their own research.

The Office of Undergraduate Research would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their participation in making the 2nd Annual Texas STEM Conference, a huge success.

We want to give a special Thank You to Calen Brice and Susan Tribes!!!!

Individuals listed below, also provided invaluable guidance and support throughout the development of this conference. We sincerely appreciate their time and expertise.

Stacey Haynes, Charla Pate, Anita Brice, Lauren Pittman, Susan Baertl, Raine Limbrick & MCM Elegante Hotel and Conference Center, Azadeh Semien & Chartwell's Catering, and Traci Breaux & ALL AFFILIATED FACULTY, STAFF, AND MENTORS!

The Undergraduate Student Experience:

An Interview with Timothy Brown

Major: Chemistry

Year: Junior

Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Mentor: Dr. Xiangyang Lei

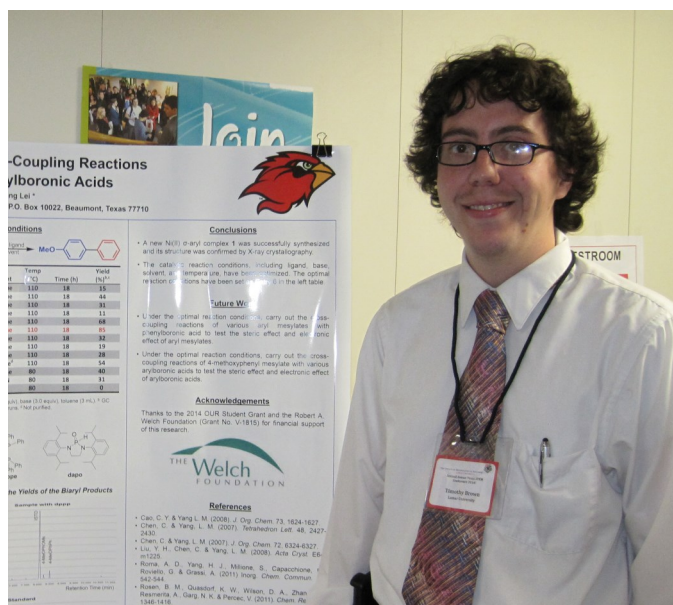
Project Title: Nickel-Catalyzed Suzuki Cross-Coupling Reactions of Aryl Mesylates with Arylboronic Acids

Describe your research project: The purpose of my research is to find the optimal conditions of the Suzuki Cross-Coupling reaction using a Nickel catalyst instead of the platinum and palladium based catalysts that are well-known. The benefits of using nickel over platinum and palladium are numerous; however, the three most important reasons are: 1. Nickel is significantly cheaper. 2. It is air stable - therefore easier to work with. 3. It is not moisture sensitive. After the optimal conditions are found I will be studying the steric effects of adding different substrates to first the arylmesylate and then the arylboronic acid. The final objective of my research is to test the effects of adding different substrates, having different electron donating and withdrawing properties, to the arylmesylate and then the arylboronic acid.

How did you come to work with your mentor? I began working with Dr. Lei after I was a student in her Organic Chemistry 1 lab. During the time I was a student in her lab I also worked in the organic lab's storage room. After my lab with her I would spend my afternoon helping the Teaching Assistants answer the students' questions on procedures and questions they had about the chemistry that was occurring during the lab. At the end of the semester Dr. Lei asked me if I wanted to do research under her.

Do you think Participating in OUR has or will be beneficial to you? Participating in under-graduate research has helped me focus more on my studies. It has also made me more eager to continue my pursuit of a doctorate's degree in chemistry.

What do you plan to do after graduating? After graduation I plan to pursue a master's degree in chemistry, then a doctorate degree, pursue post-doctoral research and eventually find a full-time research and development position as a researching chemist.





OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LAMAR UNIVERSITY™

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