



Newsletter

FALL 2015

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

2nd Annual HASSE Conference **Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education**

Saturday, November 14th

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lucas Engineering Building

The primary objective of this conference is to promote research in Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Education and provide a platform for researchers, academicians and other professionals to present research results.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE
Abstract Due by October 23, 2015

HASSE REGISTRATION DEADLINE
Registration Deadline by November 3, 2015

Upcoming Events & Activities

EVENT TITLE	DATE and TIME	LOCATION
2015-16 OUR Grant Reception	Thursday, October 29, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	University Reception Center 8th Floor of the Library
OUR Faculty Talk Timothy Meline, Ph.D. Professor Speech & Hearing Sciences	Thursday, October 29, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Landes Auditorium 1st Floor of Galloway Building
2015 Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences & Education (HASSE) Conference	Saturday, November 14 8:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Lucas Engineering Building
OUR Faculty Talk Matthew Hoch, Ph.D. Professor Biology	Thursday, November 19, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Landes Auditorium 1st Floor of Galloway Building
OUR Faculty Talk Amy Smith, PhD Professor English & Modern Language	Thursday, January 28, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Landes Auditorium 1 st Floor of Galloway Building
OUR Faculty Talk J. Darrell Mohr Counseling and Special Population	Thursday, February 25, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Landes Auditorium 1 st Floor of Galloway Building
2016 Undergraduate Research EXPO	Wednesday, April 20 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Student Setzer Center Ballroom Rooms

FACULTY MENTORING AWARDS 2015

The Office of Undergraduate Research congratulates the 2015 Faculty Award recipients:

Dr. Cristian Bahrim and Dr. Xuejun Fan



Dr. Cristian Bahrim received his Ph. D. degree from University of Paris at Orsay, in 1997, after being for five years a French Government scholar. In 1998, he moved to Kansas State University and in 2001, he joined Lamar University, Starting with 2005 he is holding a joint-appointment with the Phillip M. Drayer Department of Electrical Engineering. During 2013 he was the Interim Chair of the Department of Physics and since 2013 he has been in the executive board of the Texas section of the American Association of Physics Teachers. He published more than 120 papers in journals, books, and conference proceedings. His research interests while at Lamar included atomic collisions and interactions, slowing down light, atomic depolarization, formation of excimers with light rare gases, atomic spectroscopy, crystallography, and light-matter interaction, in particular optoelectronics several patents.

Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers: Dr. Bahrim worked with a couple of dozen Undergraduate students in research under the NSF-sponsored program called STAIRSTEP, the McNair or Honors programs. During the NSF-sponsored years (2009-13) of STAIRSTEP, Dr. C. Bahrim did extensive research with 13 out of the 18 graduates with a BS degree in physics (plus two double majors), making them to attend 21 professional physics conferences. During the same years, he conducted more than 100 honors research projects, from which four projects have been selected for the last three National Collegiate Honors Symposia. Many of his apprentices in research are now in graduate schools such as Purdue, Arizona State University, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Louisiana State University, University of Alaska, or have finished with a Ph.D. degree at Rice University, University of Central Florida or Arizona State University. While at Lamar, the two most notable achievements in research done with students were: 1) the first Lamar participation at the Poster on the Hill in Washington D.C. (2005 with Joseph Hunt); 2) The only two Barry Goldwater scholars at Lamar (Joseph Young in 2006 and Keeley Townley-Smith in 2014)



Dr. Xuejun Fan is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. He earned his PhD from Tsinghua University in 1989, and Master and Bachelor Degrees from Tianjin University in 1986 and 1984. His research interests lie in the areas of design, modeling, material characterization, and reliability in micro-/nano- electronic packaging and microsystems. Dr. Fan received IEEE CPMT Exceptional Technical Achievement Award in 2011. He won the Best Paper Award of 2008 IEEE Transactions on Components and Packaging Technology in 2009. He was elected as IEEE Distinguished Lecturer in 2008. In his earlier academia career in China, Dr. Fan was promoted to a full professor at age 27 in 1991, and became one of the youngest full professors in China. Dr. Fan had 10-year experience in industry with Intel Cooperation and Philips Research. Dr. Fan has published over 180 technical papers, 24 book chapters, and 3 books. He owns several patents.

Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers: His eight years since he joined Lamar University in 2007, Dr. Fan has mentored 21 undergraduate students to participate in research, and has been offering MEEN 4325 Undergraduate Research course as senior-level elective since then. Many students have presented their work at international, national, and regional conferences, and won Best Student Paper Awards. Several peer-reviewed papers, which were authored by undergraduate students, have been published in conference proceedings and journals. Two groups of students received OUR undergraduate research grants.

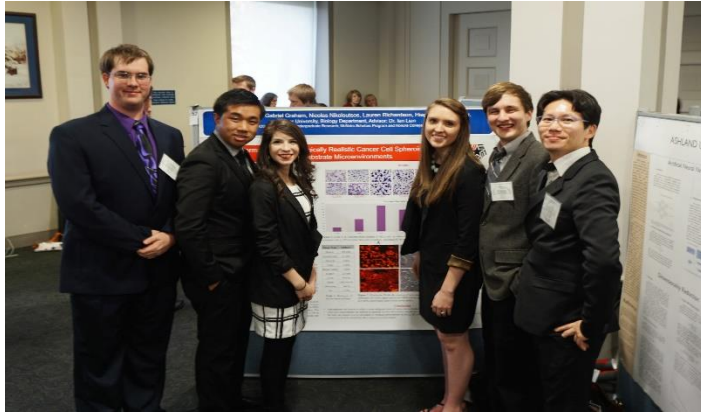
The Undergraduate Student Experience:

An Interview with Nick Nikoloutsos

Major: Electrical Engineering, Physics
& Mathematics

Year: Junior

Mentor: Dr. Ian Lian



“Photo from Poster on the Hill featuring Nick Nikoloutsos and from left Gabriel Graham, Jamie Tran, Maritya Aguilar, Lauren Richardson, Nick Nikoloutsos and Dr. Ian Lian”

Describe your research project funded by OUR: We looked at the effects cell morphology produced by changing the stiffness of the plates that cancer cell cultures are grown on. Using softer substrates we were able to grow cancer cultures with 3-dimensional features which represent more malignant states of cancer.

How did you come to work with your mentor at Lamar University? I knew I wanted to get involved in research as an undergraduate and thankfully the Office of Undergraduate Research Department has a portion of its website devoted to finding research mentors. Dr. Lian's page mentioned that he was doing cancer and stem cell research so I stopped by his office and before long I was working with him and have been ever since.

Do you think Participating in OUR has or will be beneficial to you? Absolutely! Having the opportunity to present my research as OUR events and receiving funding for projects has been an enormous help in preparing me for a career in research.

How was your NIST fellowship this summer? Great overall, I was invited back by my mentor for the next summer if I choose to do so and depending on how the continuation of our project goes while I'm away I may be presenting a poster at a national conference on behalf of my lab group in the Spring. In addition, I got to meet some great people who were also in the program and we had a lot of fun over the summer.

Describe your NIST research experience: Our project was to develop a method to image individual single-walled carbon nanotubes wrapped in DNA (DNA-SWCNTs) with fluorescence microscopy. A lot of the samples we made did not meet this goal, but towards the end of the project we were able to view individual DNA-SWCNTs when we had them flow through a microfluidic channel.

What do you plan to do after graduating? I will be pursuing a PhD, most likely in Bioengineering, but I have not made my mind up entirely yet



OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH LAMAR UNIVERSITY™

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FAREWELL

The Office of Undergraduate Research would like to wish Jasmine Fields continue success on her future endeavors. Thank you so much for all you have done and continue to do. You are greatly appreciated and will be missed.

WELCOME

The Office of Undergraduate Research would like to welcome aboard our newest addition to the department:

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2015-16 Office of Undergraduate
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