

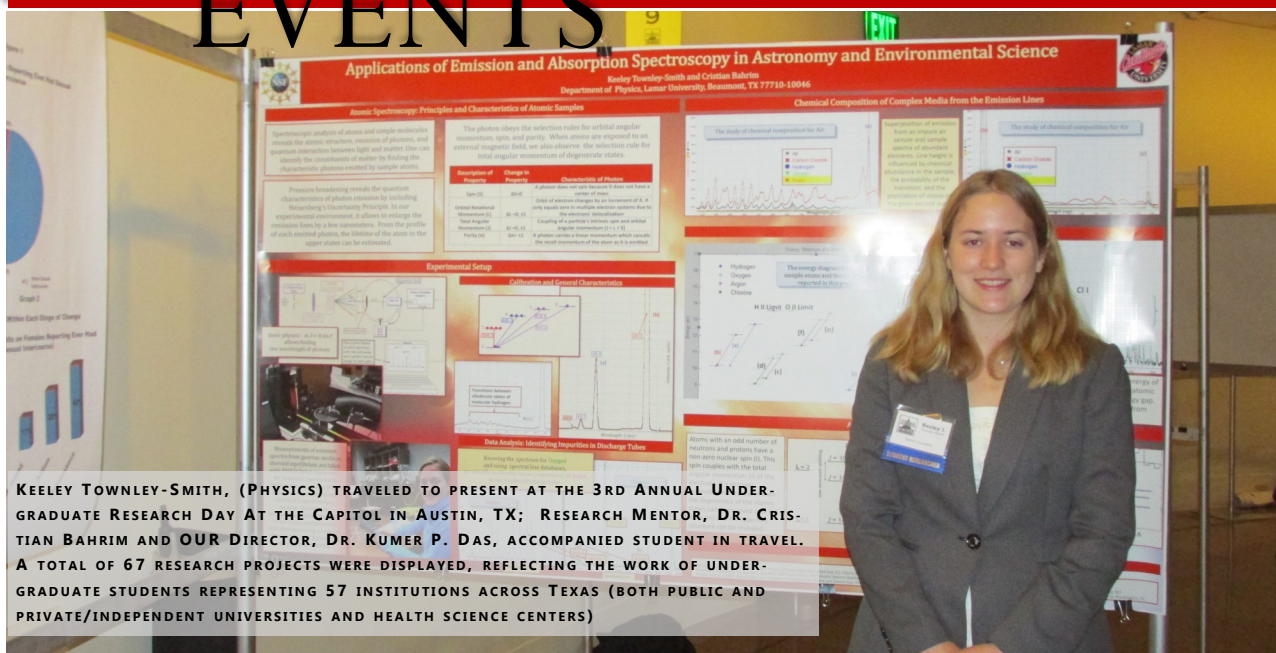
NEWS & EVENTS

THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

ISSUE

03

SPRING 2015



STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

DOIRON, T AND WANG, R. (2015). "IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems", Professional Society Journal

BOLING, C. AND DAS, K. (2015), "REDUCING DIMENSIONALITY OF TEXT DOCUMENTS USING LATENT SEMANTIC ANALYSIS", INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS, VOL: 112(5), 9-12.

BOLING, C. AND DAS, K. (2014) "SEMANTIC SIMILARITY OF DOCUMENTS USING LATENT SEMANTIC ANALYSIS", PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (NCUR), UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KY. 1083-1092.

CHIRONTONI, P., GOMES, A., DAS, K., AND SARKER, T. (2014) "ELECTROCHEMICAL MEASUREMENT OF TOXIC METAL CONTAMINANTS IN THE WATERS OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA", ACCEPTED, PROCEEDINGS OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE, ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (NCUR) 2013 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Faculty Talk w/Dr. Cristian Bahrim

March 26, 2015 | 3:30—4:30 PM

Landes Auditorium

2nd Annual Undergraduate Research Exposition

April 20, 2015 | 11:00 AM—4:00 PM

Setzer Student Center | Ballroom

Guest Faculty Talk w/Dr. Braxton Carrigan

April 24, 2015 | 9:00—10:00 AM

Landes Auditorium

Faculty Talk w/Dr. Monica Harn

April 30, 2015 | 3:30—4:30 PM

Landes Auditorium

3rd Annual Texas STEM Conf.

October 3, 2015 | Lucas Eng.

2nd Annual Humanities, Arts, & Social Science Conf.

November 14, 2015 | Lucas Eng.

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research EXPO

An Exposition of Undergraduate Scholarship

April 20th, 2015

11: 00 AM—4:00 PM

Setzer Student Center

The Undergraduate Research Exposition is designed to celebrate and showcase students' involvement in scholarly research and creative productions campus-wide, provide a venue that supports LU's combined educational missions, as well as an opportunity for students to exchange ideas in a professional setting. The Exposition will be comprised of two venues for the presentation of undergraduate research: a Symposium for oral presentations and a Poster Presentation Fair. Come see the amazing work of our LU undergraduate research students!

Registration is open thru April 9th, 2015 — NO REGISTRATION FEE!

REGISTRATION INCLUDES ALL CONFERENCE MATERIALS, REFRESHMENT BREAKS, ACCESS TO ALL SESSIONS AND SCHEDULED LUNCH. ALL PRESENTERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE EVENT SHIRT!

Abstracts may be submitted thru March 31st, 2015. All acceptance notifications will be issued on or before April 13th 2015.

Online Registration, <https://forms.lamar.edu/undergraduate-research/expo-registration.html>

Abstract Submission, <https://forms.lamar.edu/undergraduate-research/submit-abstract-form.html>

FIVE LU STUDENTS PREPARE FOR POSTER ON THE HILL COMPETITION IN WASHINGTON

The Department of Biology, housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, are pleased to send five students to represent Lamar University, in the 2015 Poster on the Hill (POH) Competition. Nicolas Nikoloutsos, Jamie Tran, Maritza Aguilar, Lauren Stafford and Gabriel Graham, under the mentor supervision of Dr. Ian Y. Lian, recently received their acceptance notification from the POH Committee. These students submitted their research abstract and were chosen out of over 600 applicants.

The National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR), sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research, promotes research among undergraduates as an important aspect of higher education.

These students will present their research project entitled: *"Formation of in vivo like cervical and breast cancer cell spheroids with soft substrate microenvironment"*. They have had the opportunity to present this research at multiple conferences, including the 2013 Texas STEM Conference, held here on campus, last October. Dr. Kumer P. Das, Director of Undergraduate Research, along with the Department of Biology will assist in preparing the students for their presentation in Washington, DC. We could not be more proud to see such diligence from our undergraduate researchers. Hats off to Dr. Ian Y. Lian and his students!

More information on the NCUR Poster on the Hill Competition, visit http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/student_events/posters_on_the_hill/



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT PLACED 1ST IN POSTER COMPETITION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2014 WINNERS!

The Lamar University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry honored three undergraduate students as winners in the departments 7th Annual Student Research Poster Competition. Timothy Brown, (Chemistry/Biochemistry) was awarded 1st Place, in the undergraduate division. In addition to the monetary prize presented by the department, Dr. Kumer P. Das, Director of OUR, presented financial support to each winner in the undergraduate category, for travel funding and research support.



DR. PAUL BERNAZANNI, (CHEMISTRY) AND DR. KUMER DAS, (OUR)
WITH COMPETITION WINNERS

NEW! Excellence Recognition

The Office of Undergraduate Research is pleased to announce the 2015 Faculty Mentoring Award to honor an Undergraduate Research Mentor for his/her success in mentoring undergraduate students in research. Deadline: April 3, 2015.

For more information, visit us:

www.lamar.edu/OUR

SEVENTEEN STUDENTS AWARDED UP TO \$1,500 FOR RESEARCH



On October 21st, 2015, The Office of Undergraduate Research announced 17 winners (15 abstracts) of the 2nd Annual grant proposal contest for students pursuing undergraduate research. The recipients are Alyssa Hughes, Jamie Stafford, Kaitlin Taylor, Gabriel Graham, Nicolas Nikoloutsos, Logan Bryant, Momin Islam, Theodore Kretschmer, Maisie Benoit, Augusta Broussard, Keeley Townley-Smith, Progga Chirontoni, Molly Porter, Christopher York, Dougal MacGregor, Charles Bray, and Mallory Burnaman.

“The involvement of undergraduate students in collaborative research and creative activity with faculty members is a proven and powerful practice when one considers the many educational benefits gained

by students, the professional rewards accorded to faculty mentors and the contributions to the wider research community,” said Kumer Das, associate professor of mathematics and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Each student has been awarded up to \$1,000 for undergraduate research support along with a \$500 stipend. The grant recipients will submit a report detailing their research outcomes and present their findings at the Lamar Undergraduate Research Expo on April 20th.

O.U.R. HOSTS HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES CONFERENCE ‘14

The Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Conference was held on Saturday, November 15th in the Lucas Engineering Building, at Lamar University. The popular all day event, be it intimate in size, brought together some of the most innovative conducted research.

While the Office of Undergraduate Research has hosted conferences focused in STEM subjects in the past, this was the first time for OUR to host a conference with emphasis in the humanities.

Dr. Steven Liparulo, associate director for writing programs at the University of Houston Writing Center, was the plenary speaker for the conference.



LEFT TO RIGHT- DOUGAL MACGREGOR, BRANDON SMITH, CHARLES BRAY, SKYLAR MURPHY, RYAN NUNEZ, CARLOS CABELLERO.



BRANDON SMITH, ENGLISH MAJOR, ENGAGING IN PEER PRESENTATION AT THE HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS) CONFERENCE



DR. JAMES WESTGATE PRESENTS TO UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS ON PALEONTOLOGY

The Office of Undergraduate Research host monthly talks by LU Faculty, in the Landes Auditorium at 3:30PM. The guest speaker for the January Faculty Talk, was Dr. James W. Westgate of the Geology Department. Westgate discussed his undergraduate research experiences and experiences leading up to. As an LU professor of Earth and Space Sciences, having led workshops all over, Westgate offered a very engaging presentation to our LU students.

In addition to his undergraduate research experience, Westgate also discussed his hands on supervised research in fossil marine mammals, terrestrial carnivores, estuarine communities, 40 year old fossil communities in Laredo and Utah, and so much more!

With the support from the Geology Department and Westgate's research students— this talk drew the attention of over sixty-five students, ten faculty and staff, and affiliated advisory committee members. The Office of Undergraduate Research would like to especially thank Dr. Westgate for his invaluable contribution and investment in the future of LU students, in the presentation of *Past and Present Paleontology Research by LU Undergraduates*. Hats off to the support from the student body as well!

LAMAR'S EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJORS RECOGNIZED FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Lamar's Exercise Science majors win the 2015 Texas American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Quiz Challenge Bowl. Twenty seven teams from Universities across the state of Texas participated at the J.J. Pickle Research Complex on the University of Texas Campus in Austin, Texas on February 26. Many of the questions presented not only addressed a basic understanding of the concepts, principles and theories of human physiology and movement, but how the body responds when presented with different stressors under numerous conditions. This was the second year that Lamar has attended the conference and competed against many notable schools in the state including The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Baylor University, and many others. Lamar's Exercise Science team included **Hanna Boyett, Kollin Kahler, and Catherin Wu** with **George Orebe** serving as score keeper and alternate member. Also attending was graduate student Lance Warren. This is an amazing accomplishment for these engaged students and for Lamar University.

Submitted by Dr. D. Richard Carter of Health and Kinesiology

LAMAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
PONDERING OVER PROPOSED
QUESTION



2015 TEXAS ACSM QUIZ BOWL WINNERS
(LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE OREBE, HANNAH LONG, CATHERINE WU, KOLLIN KAHLER)

Great Job Hannah, George, Kollin & Catherine!