The 5th Annual Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity Expo was held on Friday, April 20, 2018 at Lamar University Setzer Student Center.

The EXPO included 112 presentations by 190 Lamar University students mentored by 52 faculty mentors and representing 25 academic departments.

Lamar’s alumna, Dr. Christina Lambert, Technical Leader for Ford Motor Company was the plenary speaker for the conference.

Dr. Lambert is a Technical Leader for emission control within Powertrain Research and Advanced Engineering at the Ford Research and Innovation Center in Dearborn, MI. She started at Ford in 1999 after receiving a Ph.D. in Catalysis from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Prior to that she earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. Dr. Lambert holds thirty-five U.S. patents and is co-author of over seventy technical publications in the areas of supported metal catalysts and emission control systems for diesel vehicles. She is a Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers.
On April 20, 2018, The Office of Undergraduate Research announced fifteen winners for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). This program is meant to motivate all undergraduate students to explore their fields of study in creative activities and research. The recipients are Isaac Angeron-Mechanical Engineering, Mentors: Dr. Keivan Davami & Dr. Maryam Vasef; Kimberly Boase-Speech and Hearing Sciences, Mentors: Dr. Heather Reading & Dr. Ashley Dockens; Ashley Borel & Hayden Henslee-Biology, Mentor: Dr. Matthew Hoch; Jordan Bryant-Social Work, Mentor: Dr. Ginger Gummelt; Katelin Catching-Biology, Mentor: Dr. Matthew Hoch; Anna Clifton-Mechanical Engineering/Mathematics, Mentor: Dr. Ramesh Guduru; Madison Demel-Chemical Engineering, Mentor: Dr. Christopher Martin; Fredrick Donahey-Pre-medical Chemical Engineering, Mentor: Dr. Randall Terry; Katherine Harmon-Biology, Mentor: Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor; Mackenzie Hudson-Psychology/Biology, Mentors: Dr. Maryam Vasefi & Dr. Mahdi Safa; William Perry-Nursing, Mentor: Dr. Cynthia Pipkins; Dikshant Singh-Chemical Engineering, Mentors: Dr. Berna Eren Tokgoz & Dr. Cagatay Tokgoz; and Shanetta Williams-Interdisciplinary Studies, Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh.

Each student was awarded $2,000.00 stipend and $1,000.00 for research support and housing. The grant recipients will submit a final research report approved by the mentor on their project’s results by November 30, 2018.
The 5th Annual Texas STEM Conference was held Saturday, October 28, 2017 in the Archer Physics Building, at Lamar University.

The STEM Conference provided undergraduate and graduate students from Texas and Arkansas with the opportunity to present their work on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The conference included oral and poster presentations given by 48 presenters.

Lamar’s alumnus, Mr. James E. Bell, Jr., from the United Launch Alliance, was the keynote speaker for the conference.

Special thanks to Dr. Paul Bernazzani, Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, and Dr. Srinivas Palanki, Dean, College of Engineering, for their continuous support.
The Humanities, Arts, Social Behavioral Sciences, Education & Business Conference was held Saturday, November 18, 2017 in the John Gray Center and the Reaud Honors Building, at Lamar University.

The popular all day event brought together some of the most innovative research from all over Texas. Hats off to the 36 presenters.

Lamar’s alumna, Dr. Alisa Hicklin Fryar, Associate Professor of Political Science of University of Oklahoma was the plenary speaker for the conference.

The conference welcomed the graduate student Mrs. Ying Luo from Indiana University–Bloomington, with two talks about argumentative writing.
The Office of Undergraduate Research supports 42 students with funding for their undergraduate research and creative activities projects. They are the following:

Roshney Ali, Aleksander Allen, Isaac Angeron, Jordan Bryant, Progga Chirontoni, Robbie Clarke, Victoria Cornell, Drake Curette, Jordan Curl, Edward Doan, Frederick Donahey, Blaire Dykes, Carley Exiga, Diego Fernandez, Johnny Frazier, Emily Gant, Yazmin Glenn, Shelby Hare, William Q. Van Hoozer, Hannah Hudgins, Alek J. Hutson, Nicolas Johnson, Yves Jordan Kenfack, Zara Killman, Julia Lin, Alexus Locke, Craig Martin, Jamesley Norvil, Caroline Nwandu, Garrett Oliver, Zhen Wei Ooi, Kevin Peterson, Daniel Quispe, David Quispe, Samuel Rueda, Hannah Rumsey, Juliana Silva, Maria Stamatis, Shreya Vakil, Julian VanDevender, William Villa, and Amanda Warner.

Each student has been awarded up to $1,000 for undergraduate research support along with $500 stipend. The grant recipients will submit a report detailing their research outcomes and present their findings at the LU Research EXPO on April 21, 2018. A special thank you to Dr. Kenneth Evans and Dr. James Marquart for their continued support to OUR and to the families and mentors that came out to support the 2017-18 Grant Recipients.
This year at the EXPO faculty members commented on each presentation of the five colleges that participated and awarded the participants on the level their research Early, In-Progress & Advanced stage.

**College of Arts & Sciences:** POSTER – Andrea Bru, Jasmine Roleghi, Jordan Bryant, Alek Huston, Roshney Ali, Aleksander Sholl, and Caitlyn Clark; TALK -Samuel Rueda, Emily Smith, Victoria Cornell, and Cedric Lyons, Yves Kenflack, and John Ellis. **College of Engineering:** POSTER – David Yeakey, Emily Ingram, and Edward Doan & Jordan Curl; TALK-Progga Chirontoni and Austin Seaux. **College of Business:** POSTER-Levi Smith, Austin Krautz, Evan Achee and Matthew Timmer (group); Nathan Adams, Cristian Romero, Hannah Rumsey, John Reichard, Shiblee Ahmed, and Patricia Lauritzen (group); John Reichard, Ashley Bailey, Lester Juneau, Blake Kight, and Benjamin (group). **College of Fine Arts & Communications:** POSTER-Osha Jones, Alishia Bukhari and Mary Wilbur, Aruba Bukhari and Bra’ah Hamdan (group); TALK- Brooke White, Hannah Hudgins, and Taylor Handy. Reaud Honors College: POSTER-Samira Ahmed, Aurora Maldonado, and Antonio Gussman, Rebekah Gonzales and Luke Nguyen (group); TALK-Nathan House.
The Office of Undergraduate Research congratulations the 2018 Faculty Award Recipients:

Dr. Christopher Martin

Dr. Christopher B. Martin, originally from Van Wert, OH, began his academic career at Malone College in Canton, OH when he was awarded an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, KY under the supervision of Dr. Mark Meier. This research experience was so transformative that he immediately transferred to UK where he then performed additional research in the labs of Dr. Robert Grossman (organic synthesis) and Dr. Arthur Cammers (physical organic) where he eventually published two first-author papers in high-ranking, peer-reviewed journals. After receiving his Bachelor degree in Chemistry from the University of Kentucky in 1999 he continued his education at The Ohio State University under the guidance of Dr. Matthew S. Platz. During this time at OSU, Dr. Martin elected to broaden his training and experience by earning his Master’s Degree in Chemistry by using primarily computer simulations (Computational Chemistry) on short-lived photochemical reactions and then shifting his training to using microbiological studies to quantify the photochemical effects of a new technology on the inactivation of pathogens in donated blood in collaboration with Navigant Biotechnologies. This work not only earned Martin his PhD in 2004, but also landed his name on a US patent that was based on his doctoral work.

Immediately after earning his PhD, Dr. Martin began his teaching career at Lamar University as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry teaching Organic Chemistry where he has continued his multi-disciplinary efforts with a targeted focus on undergraduate research experiences. Dr. Martin was honored to serve as a co-PI on a research grant funded by the National Science Foundation of nearly $1,000,000 led by Dr. Peggy Doerschuk (CS) alongside with Dr. C. Bahrim (PH), Dr. J. Daniel (MA), Dr. J. Kruger (ESS), and Dr. J. Mann (PSY). “STudents Advancing through Involvement in Research Student Talent Expansion Program (STAIRSTEP)” began in 2009 and aims “to increase the number of talented at risk undergraduate students receiving baccalaureate degrees in Computer Science (CS), Chemistry (CH), Physics (PH), Geology (GE), Earth Science (ES), and Mathematics (MA) at Lamar University (LU).” This highly successful program was recognized in 2013 by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board STAR award recognizing “programs that have made exceptional contributions to closing the gaps in student participation, student success, academic excellence, and/or research.” Dr. Martin has also actively collaborated with members of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering studying industrial flaring using a variety of computational simulations since 2007. He has mentored 40 different undergraduate students in research, presented this work at 5 national meetings, and published with undergraduate co-authors in peer-reviewed journals 7 times. His research students demonstrate great success both at Lamar and after graduation and include Beck Fellows, McNair Scholars, medical physicians, PhD chemists, and PhD biologists. His current research interests at Lamar include studying the unusual molecular rearrangements of a small class of molecules called furanones undergo upon exposure to light that may have implications for the pharmaceutical industry.
Dr. Cristian Bahrim was named Assistant Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research. Dr. Bahrim is a professor of Physics. He supervises student researchers at Lamar for 17 years and was awarded the OUR Faculty Mentor Award in 2015.

Upcoming Events

OUR Grant 2018-19
Application Deadline: September 24, 2018

6th Annual Texas STEM Conference
November 3, 2018

5th Annual Humanities, Arts, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Education & Business
November 17, 2018

Join our student organization:
Promoting Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity