## 8th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

### Oral Presentation Winners

**Category: Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Catrin Seepo</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“The Syntax of Chaldean Neo-Aramaic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Michael Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Mauricio Garcia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“The Political Power of Jazz as Protest: Plato, Nietzsche, Rousseau, Adorno, and How Jazz Music Threatens Authoritarianism/Totalitarianism as a Symbol of Freedom”</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Rebecca LeMoine</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters</td>
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**Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Amrita Ghaness &amp; Nicole Fitzgerald</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“Effects of Gender on Levels of Tension in the Therapeutic Relationship”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Paul Peluso</td>
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<td>College</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Onur Basman &amp; Esteban Cardenas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“The American Perception and Ideology Towards Refugees”</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Monica Escaleras</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>College of Business</td>
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**Category: Basic, Health & Medical Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Forrest FitzGerald</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“Thermodynamic Analysis of Galectin-1,-3 Binding to Beta-galactosides and MUC1-TF Bearing Glycopeptides”</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Mare Cudic</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>Charles E. Schmidt College of Science</td>
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<tr>
<th>Second Place</th>
<th>Dalia Soueid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>“Progress toward Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Eglin-Based Matriptase Inhibitor”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAU Mentor</td>
<td>Maciej Stawikowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>Charles E. Schmidt College of Science</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences**

**First Place:**  
**Wilmer Lopez**  
Project Title: “A Comparative Analysis of Shark Pectoral Fins”  
FAU Mentor: Marianne Porter  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place Tie:**  
**Kestride Estil**  
Project Title: “Model Dwelling of Recycled Plastic for La Plaine, Haiti”  
FAU Mentor: Jean Martin Caldieron  
College: College of Design and Social Inquiry

**Second Place Tie:**  
**Gino Garlaschi**  
Project Title: “Investigation of Dissolved Metals Concentrations in Lake Worth Lagoon”  
FAU Mentor: Tara Root  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Category: Engineering**

**First Place:**  
**Kavita Braun, Derek Peters & Cesar Saldana**  
Project Title: “A Biodegradable Surfactant for Enhanced Oil Recovery: A Microfluidic Study”  
FAU Mentor: Kim Myeongsub  
College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Second Place:**  
**Alexis Base**  
Project Title: “A Synthetic Sea Urchin Exoskeleton for Carbon Conversion to Environmental Calcium Carbonate Precipitates”  
FAU Mentor: Peng Yi  
College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Category: Business, Marketing, Finance, Public Administration**

**First Place:**  
**Amaury Minino**  
Project Title: “An Analysis of US State Municipal Bond Yield Curves”  
FAU Mentor: Hongwei Long  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place:**  
**Stefan Ragnarsson**  
Project Title: “Empirical Evidence of the Negative Relationship Between Social Capital and Corruption”  
FAU Mentor: Kanybek Nur-tegin  
College: Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

**Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences**

**First Place:**  
**Caralin Branscum**  
Project Title: “Voluntary Victim Intoxication in Sexual Assaults: A Summary of the Nation’s State Statutes”  
FAU Mentor: Seth Fallik  
College: College of Design and Social Inquiry
**First Place:**  
*Janet Weinthal*  
Project Title: “Block vs. Text coding games: Comparing 4th grade students’ confidence, interest, and skill in computer science”  
FAU Mentor: Tricia Meredith  
College: College of Education

**Second Place Tie:**  
*Jessica Gushue*  
Project Title: “Gender Differences in Adolescent Perceptions of Wartime Violence”  
FAU Mentor: Patricia Liehr  
College: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

**Second Place Tie:**  
*Nicole McRostie*  
Project Title: “Who Done It? Source Memory Differences in Older and Younger Adults”  
FAU Mentor: Julie Earles  
College: Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

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**Poster Presentation Winners**

*Category: Basic Sciences*

**First Place:**  
*Dana-Lee Bowes*  
Project Title: “The Comparison Between African-Americans and European Caucasians with Mild Cognitive Impairments by Examining Cognitive Deficits in Their Daily Lives”  
FAU Mentor: Monica Rosselli  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place:**  
*Amina Ali*  
Project Title: “Identifying Kinesin-Associated Cargoes During Learning in Aplysia californica”  
FAU Mentor: Laura Vernon  
College: Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College

*Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences*

**First Place:**  
*Christopher Demezier*  
Project Title: “Vignettes and Their Role in Bullying Research”  
FAU Mentor: Joy Longo  
College: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

**Second Place:**  
*Emily Schayes*  
Project Title: “Promoting Understanding Through Shared Human Connection in Photographs: An Exploratory Study on Stigma Surrounding Homelessness”  
FAU Mentor: Andra Opalinski  
College: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
Category: Business, Marketing, Finance, Public Administration

**First Place Tie:**  
**Danielle Gordon**  
Project Title: “Impact of Functional versus Symbolic Signals on Initial Impressions: Implications for Designing the Look of a Website Homepage to Convey an Outdoorsy Brand Image/Personality for a Lifestyle Brand”  
Co-Presenters: Samin Nuhin, Katherine Llanos  
FAU Mentor: Allen Smith  
College: College of Business

**First Place Tie:**  
**Maria Trajano**  
Project Title: “Activating the Appeal of Voice Activated Digital Assistant: Insights from Advertising Research and Persuasion Theory”  
Co-Presenters: Rachel Cumming, Sarah LaFemina, Samantha Campana, Katie Richter  
FAU Mentor: Allen Smith  
College: College of Business

**Second Place:**  
**Kira Wolak**  
Project Title: “The Home Mortgage Interest Deduction: Should Reform Mean Fear?”  
FAU Mentor: Cheryl Arflin  
College: College of Business

**Category: Classroom Research Project/Assignment**

**First Place:**  
**Sabine Elam**  
Project Title: “Tenses of Chaldean Neo-Aramaic”  
FAU Mentor: Michael Hamilton  
College: Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

**Second Place:**  
**Maya Khazem**  
Project Title: “Pedestrian Conveyance Path Usage in a South Florida Campus Environment”  
Co-Presenter: Michelle Rodriguez-Gonzalez  
FAU Mentor: Tricia Meredith  
College: College of Education

**Category: Engineering**

**First Place:**  
**Reinaldo Dos Santos**  
Project Title: “An Investigation of Dual Inclusion in the Construction of Flexible Armor”  
FAU Mentor: Hassan Mahfuz  
College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Second Place Tie:**  
**Katrina Ramsamooj**  
Project Title: “Continuous Cell Sorting by Dielectrophoresis in a Straight Microfluidic Channel”  
FAU Mentor: Sarah Du  
College: College of Engineering and Computer Science

**Second Place Tie:**  
**Cara Savoy**  
Project Title: “Eigenfaces vs. Fisherfaces: A Comparative Study Using Python”  
FAU Mentor: Koray Karabina  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
**Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences**

**First Place Tie:** Mallory Theurer  
**Project Title:** “Microsatellite Loci Analysis of Gopher Tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus) Populations in Southeast Florida”  
**FAU Mentor:** Evelyn Frazier  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**First Place Tie:** Andrea Hernandez  
**Project Title:** “Fin Morphology in Two Benthic Elasmobranch Species”  
**FAU Mentor:** Marianne Porter  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place:** Zachary Blakeney  
**Project Title:** “An Evaluation of Productivity for Florida Burrowing Owls in a South Florida Population”  
**FAU Mentor:** Evelyn Frazier  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Category: Health & Medical Sciences**

**First Place:** Alexandra Urdaneta  
**Project Title:** “Quantification and Analysis of Cancer-Cell Derived Exosomes”  
**FAU Mentor:** Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place Tie:** Fedgy Rivero  
**Project Title:** “Development and Optimization of AlphaScreen Assay for Discovery of Galectin Inhibitors”  
**Co-Presenter:** Forrest FitzGerald  
**FAU Mentor:** Mare Cudic  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place Tie:** Meer Sajida Hossain  
**Project Title:** “Adult-born Dentate Granule Neurons Show Accelerated Maturation in a Transgenic Mouse Model of Adult-onset Spontaneous Epilepsy”  
**FAU Mentor:** Ceylan Isgor  
**College:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Category: Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy**

**First Place:** Daniel Izadirad  
**Project Title:** “The Impact of the One Child Policy on the Environment”  
**FAU Mentor:** Kenneth Holloway  
**College:** Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

**Second Place:** Paulina Oporto Cespedes  
**Project Title:** “Representation of Dominican Identity in the Name of Salomé (2000) by Julia Álvarez”  
**FAU Mentor:** Carmen Cañete Quesada  
**College:** Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College