8th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

Oral Presentation Winners

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

First Place: Catrin Seepo
Project Title: “The Syntax of Chaldean Neo-Aramaic”
FAU Mentor: Michael Hamilton, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
College: Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Second Place: Mauricio Garcia
Project Title: “The Political Power of Jazz as Protest: Plato, Nietzsche, Rousseau, Adorno, and How Jazz Music Threatens Authoritarianism/Totalitarianism as a Symbol of Freedom”
FAU Mentor: Rebecca LeMoine, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
College: Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences

First Place: Amrita Ghaness & Nicole Fitzgerald
Project Title: “Effects of Gender on Levels of Tension in the Therapeutic Relationship”
FAU Mentor: Paul Peluso, College of Education
College: College of Education

Second Place: Esteban Cardenas & Onur Basman
Project Title: “The American Perception and Ideology Towards Refugees”
FAU Mentor: Monica Escaleras, College of Business
College: College of Business

Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences II

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 of Design and Social Inquiry
College: College of Design and Social Inquiry

Second Place: Jessica Gushue
Project Title: “Gender Differences in Adolescent Perceptions of Wartime Violence”
FAU Mentor: Patricia Liehr, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
College: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing
**Category: Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences III**

**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 of Education  
College: College of Education

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

**Category: Basic, Health & Medical Sciences**

**First Place:**  
Forrest FitzGerald  
Project Title: “Thermodynamic Analysis of Galectin-1,-3 Binding to Beta-galactosides and MUC1-TF Bearing Glycopeptides”  
FAU Mentor: Mare Cudic, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Second Place:**  
Dalia Soueid  
Project Title: “Progress toward Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Eglin-Based Matriptase Inhibitor”  
FAU Mentor: Maciej Stawikowski, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

**Category: Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences**

**First Place:**  
Wilmer Lopez  
Project Title: “A Comparative Analysis of Shark Pectoral Fins”  
FAU Mentor: Marianne Porter, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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 Calidieron, College of Design and Social Inquiry  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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 of Engineering and Computer Science  
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 of Engineering and Computer Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College  
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, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing  
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, Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing  
College: Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing

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

**First Place Tie:** Danielle Gordon, Samin Nuhin and Katherine Llanos  
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”  
FAU Mentor: Allen Smith, College of Business  
College: College of Business

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

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

**Category: Classroom Research Project/Assignment**

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

**Second Place:** Maya Khazem and Michelle Rodriguez-Gonzalez  
Project Title: “Pedestrian Conveyance Path Usage in a South Florida Campus Environment”  
FAU Mentor: Tricia Meredith, College of Education  
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 of Engineering and Computer Science  
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 of Engineering and Computer Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
First Place:  **Alexandra Urdaneta**  
Project Title: “Quantification and Analysis of Cancer-Cell Derived Exosomes”  
FAU Mentor: Vijaya Iragavarapu-Charyulu, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine  
College: Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

Second Place Tie:  **Fedgy Rivero and Forrest FitzGerald**  
Project Title: “Development and Optimization of AlphaScreen Assay for Discovery of Galectin Inhibitors”  
FAU Mentor: Mare Cudic, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
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, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
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, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College  
College: Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College