



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate  
Research and Inquiry

## Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry

### 2026 Oral/Performing Arts Symposium Winners

#### Health, Medical, and Basic Sciences I

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Vanessa Illanez, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Mare Cudic, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Presentation Title:** *The Crosstalk Between O-GlcNAcylation and Phosphorylation of Tau Protein in Neurodegenerative Disorders*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Tanvi Desai, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Michael Lu, Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine  
**Presentation Title:** *Investigating PAK6-Mediated Cytoskeletal Remodeling in Cancer Progression*

#### Health, Medical, and Basic Sciences II

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter(s):** Reece Mathew and James Levi Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentors:** Abhijit Pandya, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Presentation Title:** *Computer Vision and Deep Learning Assisted Eye Motion Detection for Nystagmus Diagnosis*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Tanzeela Tasneem, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentors:** Jasmine Coyle, College of Education  
Ceth Parker, California Institute of Technology  
**Presentation Title:** *Living off the "Land": Supplementation of Lunar and Martian Regolith to Increase Algae Nutrient Production for Future Astronauts*

#### Behavioral, Educational & Social Sciences I

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Isabelle Yi, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Maria Vasquez-Colina, College of Education  
**Presentation Title:** *Educators' Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence Use to Support Feedback*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Charan Jarugula, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Tucker Hindle, College of Education  
William Ja, UF Scripps  
**Presentation Title:** *Investigation of Drosophila Sleep Homeostasis in Social Environment*



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**Engineering**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Jacob Malayil and Stefan Manevski, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Faculty Mentors:** Hassan, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Presentation Title:** *Investigation of Graphene Nanoplatelets Reinforcement into Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Mia Mandili, George Kamel, and Amelia Anderson, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Myeongsub Kim, College of Engineering and Computer Science  
**Presentation Title:** *Pore-Scale Visualization of Wettability Alteration Mechanisms in Rock-Mimicking Surfaces for Enhanced Oil Recovery*

**Business, Marketing, Finance & Public Admin and Cross Disciplinary Projects**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Luna Dominic, College of Business  
**Faculty Mentors:** Eric Levy, College of Business  
Monica Escaleras, College of Business  
**Presentation Title:** *The Resale Advantage: Assessing Fairness in Online Ticket Purchase*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Lauren Rosenblatt, Fernanda Souza, Joy Charles Dias, Kim Do, and Tyler Morris, College of Business  
**Faculty Mentors:** Eileen Acello, College of Business  
**Presentation Title:** *Catching Moments: Major League Baseball 2025-26 Case Study*

**Environmental, Ecological & Marine Sciences**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Laasya Pagadala, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentors:** Natalia Malina, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Presentation Title:** *Seasonal Variability of Dissolved Organic Matter at FAU Campus Lake*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Bailey McCormack, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Faculty Mentor:** Evelyn Frazier, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science  
**Presentation Title:** *Exploring Nesting Behaviors of the Gopher Tortoise at the FAU Preserve*

**Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy I**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Kris Barrios, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Faculty Mentors:** Adrian Finucane, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Presentation Title:** *Evolution on Trial: Tennessee v. Scopes and the Separation of Church and State*



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2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Daniela Rivera, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Faculty Mentor:** Véronique Côté, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Presentation Title:** *Reclaiming Context: Teaching Collections, Machine Gaze, and Curatorial Justice*

**Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy II**

1<sup>st</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Franco Alvarenga, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Faculty Mentor:** Regis Fox, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Presentation Title:** *The Invisible Hand in Invisible Man: Ralph Ellison, Adam Smith, and The Blindness of Power*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place **Student Presenter:** Luis Loyola III, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Faculty Mentor:** Regis Fox, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
**Presentation Title:** *Haunted By Our Memories: Depression & Melancholy in Extreme Metal Lyricism*