

 University of Connecticut

# **FRONTIERS**

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## **IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**

**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL  
POSTER EXHIBITION**

A CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP, INNOVATION,  
CREATIVITY, AND COLLABORATION

**April 13, 2012**

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**April 14, 2012**

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Wilbur Cross North and South Reading Rooms**



**Sponsored by**  
**The University of Connecticut**

Office of Undergraduate Research  
Enrichment Programs  
Honors Program

## **About Frontiers in Undergraduate Research**

The Frontiers Poster Exhibition is a multidisciplinary research forum and the largest showcase of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative projects at the University of Connecticut. Frontiers 2012 is the fifteenth annual Frontiers event sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). This year's poster exhibition includes 198 students presenting posters for 160 research projects.

The projects span the disciplines and include both independent research and work done in collaboration with other undergraduates as well as graduate student and faculty mentors. The presenters are among the top students at UConn and include Honors students, University Scholars, winners of OUR funding competitions, and winners and nominees of prestigious national scholarships. We hope you enjoy meeting our wonderful students and learning about their exciting work.

## **About the Office of Undergraduate Research**

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) exists to encourage and support undergraduate research at the University of Connecticut. Our office provides information and resources to encourage all students to pursue undergraduate research, as well as several funding programs to support the students and their faculty mentors.

Many of the Frontiers presenters have received financial support for their projects from the OUR, which awarded more than \$301,200 in 2010-2011 to students for their research work over the summer and during the academic year. These awards are funded by the Office of Undergraduate Research with generous support from the Deans of the schools and colleges, the Provost's office, and private donors.

## **Schedule of Events**

### **Poster Exhibition**

Friday, April 13, 2012

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 14, 2012

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Student and Faculty Reception**

Friday, April 13, 2012

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Welcome**

Dr. Gwen Pearson

Office of Undergraduate Research

#### **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Lynne Goodstein

Associate Vice Provost for Enrichment  
Programs; Director, Honors Program

# Alphabetical Listing of Presenters with Poster Numbers

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# Poster Listing by School or College

This listing of projects includes the undergraduate student authors and their faculty mentors. Many projects also include the contributions and mentorship of dedicated graduate students and post-doctoral scholars.

## **SOUTH READING ROOM**

### **School of Engineering**

#### **1. Activated Carbon Nanofiber Nonwovens for Microbial Fuel Cells**

Breanne Muratori, Chemical Engineering

Seetha Manickam, Graduate Student, Chemical Engineering

Udayarka Karra, Graduate Student, Environmental Engineering

Advisor: Jeffrey McCutcheon, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering and

Baikun Li, Associate Professor, Environmental Engineering

#### **2. Porous Concrete Performance: Water Quality**

Malcolm Smith, Environmental Engineering

Advisor: Timothy Vadas, Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering

#### **3. EPA Soil Stabilization Research in Nicaragua**

Dana Boyer, Environmental Engineering

Scott Cipoletti, Civil Engineering

Advisor: Maria Chrysochoou, Assistant Professor, Environmental Engineering

#### **4. Sustainable Erosion Control in Developing Countries Using Industrial By-products**

Scott Cipoletti, Civil Engineering

Advisor: Maria Chrysochoou, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering

#### **5. Temporal Nonlinearities for Amplitude Modulation Coding in the Unanesthetized Rabbit Inferior Colliculus**

Peter Boutros, Biomedical Engineering

Advisor: Monty Escabi, Associate Professor, Biomedical Engineering

#### **6. Mechanical properties of chordae tendineae in human and animal models**

Kaitlyn Clarke, Biomedical Engineering

Thuy Pham, Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering

Shamik Bhattacharya, Post-doc, Mechanical Engineering

Advisor: Wei Sun, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

### **7. Biomechanical Analysis of Healthy and Abnormal Aortic Tissue**

Stephany Santos, Biomedical Engineering

Advisor: Wei Sun, Professor, Biomedical Engineering

### **8. Thermoelectric Effects in Phase Change Memory**

Azer Faraclas, Electrical Engineering

Advisor: Ali Gokirmak, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

### **9. Solar DC-DC Converter**

Rosario Scalise, Electrical Engineering

Tomasz Walczak, Electrical Engineering

Advisor: Sung-Yeul Park, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

### **10. Intelligent Multi-Agent Power Distribution Management System**

Kunihiro Muto, Electrical Engineering

Matthew Meehan, Electrical Engineering

Patrick Fam, Electrical Engineering

Advisor: Sung Yeul Park, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering

### **11. Volatility in mRNA Secondary Structure as a Design Principle for Antisense**

Erik Johnson, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Ranjan Srivastava, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

### **12. Fluorescent Nanofibrous Membrane for the Ultra-Sensitive Detection of Explosives**

Anthony La, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Yu Lei, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

### **13. The Preparation of Silver-Based Nanomaterials through Electrochemistry and Wet-Chemistry**

Honorio Valdes Espinosa de los Monteros, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Yu Lei, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

### **14. Preparation of 1-D Nanostructures via Wet Chemistry**

Daniel Manuzzi, Chemical Engineering

Liang Su, Graduate Student, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Yu Lei, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

**15. Determination of Radial Force and Coefficient of Friction with a Self-Expanding Transcatheter Aortic Valve Stent**

Andrew Reynolds, Biomedical Engineering

Joseph Mummert, Graduate Student, Biomedical Engineering

Eric Sirois, Graduate Student, Mechanical Engineering

Advisor: Wei Sun, Professor, Mechanical Engineering

**16. Electrochemical Investigation of Carbonate Selective Catalyst for Room Temperature Carbonate Fuel Cells**

Michael Ignatowich, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: William Mustain, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering

**17. Experimental Sensitivity Map Generation and Improving Image Accuracy for Electrical Capacitance Tomography**

Donald Karg, Mechanical Engineering

Advisor: Robert Gao, Pratt & Whitney Endowed Chair, Mechanical Engineering,

and Zhaoyan Fan, Research Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

**18. A Methodology of Measuring Coronary Flow in a Porcine Aortic Root Using a Pulsatile Flow Loop**

Joseph Calderan, Biomedical Engineering

Eric Sirois, Graduate Student, Mechanical Engineering

Advisor: Wei Sun, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

**School of Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**19. Investigating the potential of plant-derived molecules for controlling multi-drug resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii***

James Gaffney, Animal Science

Anup Kollanoor Johny, Post-Doc, Animal Science

Advisor: Kumar Venkitanarayanan, Professor, Animal Science

**20. Effects of Reverse Electron Transport on NADH Formation and Metmyoglobin Reduction**

Charlene Van Buiten, Nutritional Sciences

Ranjith Ramanathan, Graduate Student, Animal Science

Advisor: Richard Mancini, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**21. Improving the Quantification of Proanthocyanidins from Food**

Elizabeth Wallett, Nutritional Sciences

Anna Roto, Nutritional Sciences

Advisor: Bradley Bolling, Assistant Professor, Nutritional Sciences

**22. Postprandial Glucose and Insulin Responses Following Low-Fat Milk Ingestion in Individuals with Metabolic Syndrome**

Sarah Kranz, Allied Health Sciences

Katie Lainas, Pathobiology

Kevin Ballard, Post-Doc, Nutritional Sciences

Advisor: Richard Bruno, Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences

**23. The Role of Adiponutrin Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms on the Genetic Predisposition to Fatty Liver in Dairy Cattle**

Molly Viner, Animal Science

Advisor: Heather White, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**24. Characterization of Blood Vitamins and Metabolites during the Transition to Lactation in University of Connecticut Dairy Cattle**

Kaylin Belskie, Animal Science

Zoe Wichman, Animal Science

Advisor: Heather White, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**25. Effects of intrauterine growth retardation, due to poor maternal nutrition, on gene expression in adipose tissue**

Stephanie Spignesi, Animal Science

Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**26. Effects of Intrauterine Growth Retardation, due to Poor Maternal Nutrition, On Gene Expression and Differentiation in Osteoblasts and Adipocytes**

Dana Kaelin, Animal Science

Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**27. Effects of Intrauterine Growth Retardation Due to Poor Maternal Nutrition on Gene Expression in Muscle Tissue**

Stephanie Tornaquindici, Animal Science

Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

**28. Direct Sub-Lethal Effects of the Oil Dispersant Corexit and Oil in the Eastern Oyster**

Lindsay Jasperse, Molecular and Cell Biology

Katherine Tsantiris, Environmental Science

Advisor: Sylvain De Guise, Associate Professor, Pathobiology, and Milton Levin, Assistant Professor, Pathobiology

**29. Validations of PCR Primers for Bovine Pluripotent Genes**

Derek Marotta, Animal Science

Erik Carter, Pathobiology

Advisor: Xiuchun Tian, Associate Professor, Animal Science

**30. Mastering Techniques of Laboratory Research with Genetic Material**

Brian Carson, Animal Science

Advisor: Cindy Tian, Associate Professor, Animal Science

**31. A "Helpless" System for the Generation of Recombinant Vaccinia Viruses**

Ethan Sarnoski, Pathobiology

Advisor: Paulo Verardi, Assistant Professor, Pathobiology

**32. Magnetic-Beaded Antibody Facilitation of Recombinant Vaccinia Virus Production**

Peter Larson, Pathobiology

Advisor: Paulo Verardi, Assistant Professor, Pathobiology

**33. Inducible Recombinant Vaccinia Virus Utilizing the Tetracycline Operon to Control the Essential Genes A3L and E8R**

Brittany Jasperse, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Paulo Verardi, Assistant Professor, Pathobiology

**34. Viral Immune Evasion Through Host Gene Hijacking**

Minh Phan, Pathobiology

Advisors: Paulo Verardi, Assistant Professor, Pathobiology; Antonio Garmendia, Professor, Pathobiology; and J. Peter Gogarten, Distinguished Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**35. An Assessment of Ichthyofauna in an Artisanal Fishing Zone in the Golfo de Chiriquí**

Kathleen Carey, Animal Science

Rubén González, SIT Panama Program, Academic Director

Advisor: Steven Zinn, Professor, Animal Science

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**36. Habituation Effects in Attention Modification Training for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder**

Olivia Bogucki, Psychology

Advisor: Kimberli Treadwell, Associate Professor, Psychology

**37. Longitudinal Changes in Pronoun Reversal in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Typically Developing Children**

Michelle Cheng, Psychology

Advisors: Letitia Naigles, Professor, Psychology; Deborah Fein, Professor, Psychology; Neha Khetrapal, Research Assistant, Macquarie University, Australia; Katherine Demuth, Professor (CORE) and Honorary Associate, Macquarie University, Australia

**38. Developmental Changes in Joint Attention in Typically Developing Children and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Kimberly Ellison, Psychology

Saime Tek, Post-Doc, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Johns Hopkins University  
Advisor: Letitia Naigles, Professor, Psychology

**39. Language-Specific Tuning of Audiovisual Integration in Early Development**

Barbara Gruenbaum, Psychology

Advisor: Heather Bortfeld, Associate Professor, Psychology

**40. Differential Latencies Across Training Days in Response to Manipulation of Emotional Context**

Sharon Casavant, Physiology and Neurobiology

Youstina Youssef, Cognitive Science

Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

**41. Dissociating Place Cell Activity across the Dorsal and Ventral Regions of the Hippocampus**

Kevin Mastro, Biological Sciences

Jamal Carobert, Physiology and Neurobiology

Xiao Li, Psychology

Nickie Paul, Graduate student, Psychology

Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

**42. The Effect of Arc Knockdown on a Hippocampal Place Task**

Emily Szkudlarek, Psychology

Paul Ericson, Psychology

Krista Wolffer, Animal Science

Brandy Schmidt, Graduate Student, Psychology

Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

### **43. Dorsal CA1 Arc Knockdown Effects on Exploration and Memory**

Thomas Feldtmose, Psychology  
Phoebe Menacherry, Molecular and Cell Biology  
Brandy Schmidt, Graduate Student, Psychology  
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

### **44. Changes in hippocampal theta rhythm during place-task learning in rats**

Matthew Howe, Physiology and Neurobiology  
Greg Newman, Psychology  
Amanda Swanson, Graduate Student, Psychology  
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

### **45. Why Can't That Rat Remember Where He's At? Understanding Proactive Interference Using a Delayed-Match-to-Place Radial Water Maze Task**

Shang Lin Lee, Biological Sciences and Psychology  
Danielle Pulli, Psychology  
Nicholas Paul, Graduate Student, Psychology  
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

### **46. Cell Size Distribution in the MGN and Associated Auditory Processing Deficits in EPO Treated and Untreated HI Injured Rodents**

Mariah Elliott, Psychology  
Michelle Alexander, Graduate Student, Psychology  
Advisor: R. Holly Fitch, Associate Professor, Psychology

### **47. Anxiety and Social Interaction in BXD Mice**

Ashley Bonet, Biological Sciences  
Dongnhu Truong, Graduate Student, Psychology  
Advisor: Roslyn Holly Fitch, Associate Professor, Psychology

### **48. The Effects of Varying Ketamine Doses and Delays on Memory Consolidation**

Ryan Tabtabai, Biological Sciences  
Advisor: James Chrobak, Professor, Psychology

### **49. Differential Arc expression across the dorsal-ventral axis of the hippocampus by emotional context**

Vishal Gohel, Physiology and Neurobiology  
Neiha Kidwai, Biological Sciences  
Advisor: Amanda Swanson, Graduate Student, Psychology

**50. Undergraduate Students' Experiences of Personal Growth through the Mentoring of Youth**

Samantha Eisenberg, Human Development and Family Studies

Sara Johnson, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Preston Britner, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**51. Does opening family and juvenile courts increase the media attention they receive?**

Joseph Levy, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Preston Britner, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**52. Professional Development Needs of Early Childhood Providers: A Focus Group Study**

Cristin Caparotta, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Anne Farrell, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**53. Predictors of Fear of Recurrence in Colorectal Cancer Survivors**

Lindsey LaFemina, Human Development and Family Studies

Katrina Nygren, Communication Sciences

Elizabeth Tagg, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Keith Bellizzi, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**54. Individual and Family Factors Associated with Quality of Life in Survivors of Colorectal Cancer**

Kelsie Colpitts, Human Development and Family Studies

Steven Schmidt, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Elizabeth Tagg, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Keith Bellizzi, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**55. Expectations and Realities of Legal Advocating for Children**

Olivia Hebenstreit, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Anita Garey, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**56. Young African-American Children's Representations of The Father Role in Low-income Households**

Shawnae Thompson, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: JoAnn Robinson, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies



**57. Does the observed working alliance of children in Jumpstart with their UConn student mentors predict the quality of the shared reading experience?**

Lauren Reilly, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: JoAnn Robinson, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**58. An Exploratory Study of Preschoolers' Language and Literacy Skills and Their Experiences in Dialogic Reading Epochs**

Stephanie Godbout, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: JoAnn Robinson, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**59. How Divorced Parents' Mental Health Affects Children's Academic Achievement and Overall Well-Being Post-Divorce**

Anne Lee, Human Development and Family Studies

Victoria McDougal, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Edna Brown, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**60. How Parent Child Relationship Satisfaction and Time Spent with Child Post-Divorce are Associated with Parent's Mental Health**

Jennifer Barney, Human Development and Family Studies

Alison Wong, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Edna Brown, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**61. Associations between Men's and Women's Relationship Quality and Mental Health Over Time**

Tavia Briscoe, Human Development and Family Studies

Victoria McDougal, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Alison Wong, Graduate Student, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Kari Adamsons, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**62. Life After Loss: Experiences Following the Death of a Young Adult Spouse**

Allegra Levine, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Thomas Blank, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

**63. Couples Dealing with Post-prostate Cancer Sexual Issues**

Eliza Dollard, Pharmacy

Advisor: Thomas Blank, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

#### **64. Latino Men and Prostate Cancer Health Disparities**

Nubar Hanessian, Biological Sciences

Livja Koka, Biological Sciences

Siobhan O'Malley, ACES

Emily Pearson, Allied Health Sciences

Gabriel Byer-Alcorace, Graduate Assistant, Psychology

Advisor: Marysol Ascencio, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, and Professor Thomas Blank, Human Development and Family Studies

#### **65. Understanding Couple Dynamics in Cancer Survivorship: A Pilot Study**

Courtney Beyers, Nursing

Advisor: Thomas Blank, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

#### **66. Prosocial Competencies, Ethnic-Racial Socialization, and School Adjustment among Caribbean and South/Central American Immigrant Children: A Preliminary Investigation**

Gabrielle Phillips, Human Development and Family Studies

Advisor: Annamaria Csizmadia, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

## **HALLWAY**

### **School of Fine Arts**

#### **67. University of Connecticut Historical Collection of Costumes and Textiles Virtual Museum**

Angela Armijo, Design and Technical Theater

Advisor: Laura Crow, Professor, Design and Technical Theater

#### **68. 2011 Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space**

Allison McGrath, Design and Technical Theater

Advisor: Laura Crow, Professor, Design and Technical Theater

### **School of Engineering**

#### **69. Bicycle Modification to Transport and Simultaneously Purify Water For Use In Developing Regions**

Lior Trestman, Biomedical Engineering

Anton Nikiforov, Chemistry

Daniel Pfisterer, ACES

Advisor: Jeffrey McCutcheon, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering

## **70. Forward Osmosis for Refugee Camps and Disaster Relief Scenarios**

Ethan Butler, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Jeffrey McCutcheon, Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering

## **Neag School of Education**

### **71. Kindergarten Mathematics: An Observational Study of Learning Centers in Diverse School Settings**

Juliana MacSwan, Elementary Education

Advisor: M. Katherine Gavin, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology; Tutita Casa, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology; Fabiana Cardetti, Assistant Professor, Mathematics; Catherine Little, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology

### **72. High School and University Student Attitudes in Spanish Classrooms**

Dana Lovallo, Secondary Spanish Education and Spanish

Advisor: Manuela Wagner, Associate Professor, Modern and Classical Languages

### **73. Getting to the Why: Teacher Practices that Support Mathematically Sound Student Justifications**

Briana Hennessy, Secondary Education

Advisor: Megan Staples, Assistant Professor, Secondary Education

### **74. Connecticut Special Education Teacher Roles in the Implementation of Scientifically Research Based Interventions**

Julia Leonard, Special Education

Advisor: Michael Faggella-Luby, Assistant Professor, Special Education

## **College of Liberal Arts and Science**

### **75. Educator Preparation to Respond to the Needs of Homeless Children & Youth: Perceptions of School Personnel**

Sarah Harris, Secondary Social Studies Education, History, Psychology

Advisors: Catherine Little, Associate Professor, Department of Educational Psychology; Dr. Peter Baldwin, Associate Professor, History; Dr. Preston Britner, Professor, Human Development and Family Services; and Dr. Diane Quinn, Associate Professor, Psychology

### **76. Magazine Piece on the Investigation of the Antecedents, Aftermath and Implications of Orthopedic Injuries in Female High School Athletes**

Amy Schellenbaum, Journalism

Advisor: Maureen Croteau, Professor, Journalism

**77. State of the Everglades**

Caitlin Parmelee, Journalism

Courtney Robishaw, Journalism

Olivia Balsinger, Journalism

Purbita Saha, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Quenton Narcisse, Journalism

Carmine Colangelo, Journalism

Advisor: Robert Wyss, Associate Professor, Journalism

**78. An examination of services for adults with autism in Connecticut for purposes of journalistic news reports**

Alessandra Petrino, Journalism

Joseph Adinolfi, Journalism

Advisor: Marcel Dufresne, Associate Professor, Journalism

**79. Imagining the Afterlife: Literature and Eschatology in England, 1500-1700**

Alexis Cordone, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Clare King'oo, Assistant Professor, English

**80. Getting by in Depressed Times: Concord, Massachusetts in 1842**

Elizabeth Kelly, American Studies

Advisor: Robert Gross, James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History, History

## **NORTH READING ROOM**

### **School of Pharmacy**

**81. The Role of the Cannabinoid Receptor Carboxy-Terminus**

Sarah Mahonski, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Debra Kendall, Department Head and Distinguished Professor, Pharmacy

**82. Intrusive Characterization of Granular Mixing in a Novel Mixer** Karol

Lewkowicz, Pharmacy

Yunfeng Zhu, Graduate Student, Pharmacy

Advisor: Bodhi Chaudhuri, Associate Professor, Pharmacy

### **83. Parametric and Scale Up Studies on High Shear Wet Granulation**

Yasemin Malik, Molecular and Cell Biology

Christopher Jensen, ACES

Mary Kovacevic, Pharmacy

Amina Ramic, Pharmacy

Jared Mangano, ACES

Rukshana Chowdhury, Pharmacy

Annie King, ACES

Saurabh Sarkar, Graduate Student, Pharmacy

Apurva More, Graduate Student, Pharmacy

Advisor: Bodhi Chaudhuri, Assistant Professor, Pharmacy

### **84. L-menthol inhibits respiratory irritation by cigarette smoke irritants targeting diverse chemosensory receptors**

Michael Ha, Pharmacy

Advisor: John Morris, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Pharmacy

## **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

### **85. Benevolent Advocacy: The Extent of True Representation in National Latino Advocacy Organizations**

Lucien Lafreniere, History

Advisor: Juhem Navarro-Rivera, Professor, Political Science

### **86. Compromised Equality: Sex Discrimination and the Battle for Constitutional Rights**

Claire Simonich, Political Science

Advisor: Virginia Hettinger, Associate Professor, Political Science

### **87. Measuring Human Rights: Domestic Legal Guarantees Relating to Violence against Women**

David Schwegman, History

Advisor: David Richards, Associate Professor, Political Science

### **88. Public Views on Ethical Consumption**

Tess Johnson, Political Science

Advisor: Samuel Best, Associate Professor, Political Science

### **89. The Federal Response to Fiscal Distress in the States: An Historical Perspective**

Daniel Reeves, Political Science

Advisor: Jeffrey D. Grynviski, Associate Professor, Political Science

**90. Welfare Benefit Selection Using a Multidimensional Poverty Measurement: A Case Study of the *Bolsa Familia* Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Brazil**

Rafael Pérez-Segura, Economics

Advisor: Susan Randolph, Associate Professor, Economics

**91. Genocide in the Classroom: How transitional societies are affected by the quality of genocide education**

Leah Oppenheimer, Individualized Major

Advisor: Glenn Mitoma, Assistant Professor in Residence, Human Rights Institute

**92. Social and Economic Rights Fulfillment Index**

David Greenberg, Economics

Advisor: Susan Randolph, Associate Professor, Economics

**93. Quantifying the Association between Diet and Coronary Heart Disease Risk in the United States**

John Giardina, Economics

Advisor: Dennis Heffley, Professor, Economics

**94. The "Right to Food Campaign" in India: Its Evolution and Impact on Party Politics**

Hina Samnani, Finance

Advisor: Shareen Hertel, Associate Professor, Political Science

**95. Economic Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers: A Comparison of Singapore and the United States**

Romana Haider, Political Science

Advisors: Shareen Hertel, Associate Professor, Political Science; and Bandana Purkayastha, Professor, Sociology

**96. Farmer Suicide in Maharashtra, India: Facts, Factors, and Possible Fixes**

Jennifer Guha, Political Science

Advisor: Betty Hanson, Professor, Political Science

**97. Characterization of Non-Toxic Latex and Toxic Silica Particle Uptake in Various Cell Lines**

Alexandra Goetjen, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: David Knecht, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**98. The Role of Actin Binding Proteins During Cell Motility**

Elizabeth Ojukwu, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: David Knecht, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**99. Determining the Mechanism by Which Cucurbitacin I Effects Cellular Motility and Gene Transcription**

Nicholas Minutolo, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: David Knecht, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**100. Measuring the Dynamics of Filamin Interaction with the Actin Cytoskeleton Using Photoconversion Microscopy**

Alex Marrotte, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: David Knecht, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**101. The Toxic Effects of Spherical Silica, Zinc Oxide Nanowires, and Iron Oxide on Alveolar Macrophages**

Evan Byron, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: David Knecht, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**102. Reconstructing ancient RNA reveals biased evolution of optimal growth temperature in the Thermotogales**

Anna Green, Molecular and Cell Biology

Kristen Swithers, Graduate Student, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisors: J. Peter Gogarten, Distinguished Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology; Kenneth Noll, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology; Olga Zhaxybayeva, Asst. Professor, Biology, West Virginia University

**103. The Search for Novel Centromere Proteins and Chromosome Segregation Regulators**

Ryan D'souza, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Barbara Mellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**104. Tracking the Evolution of Essential Centromere Binding Proteins**

Ragini Phansalkar, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Barbara Mellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**105. Elucidating the Role of the Ubiquitin Interacting Motif (UIM) in the *Drosophila melanogaster* protein CAL1**

Christian Belisario, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Barbara Mellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**106. Investigating rhodopsin kinetic stability using membrane mimetic platforms**

Diane Yu, Structural Biology and Biophysics

Advisor: Arlene Albert, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology; and Nathan Alder, Asst. Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**107. Inhibition of Semen-derived Enhancer of Virus Infection (SEVI) fibrillogenesis by zinc and copper**

Jessica Snell, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Andrei Alexandrescu, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**108. The Role of ATRX in Placentation and Sexual Differentiation**

Tiffany Phillips: Biological Sciences and Asian Studies (Individualized major)

Advisor: Andrew Pask, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**109. Metallothionein Gene Dose and the Immune Response**

Meaghan Roy-O'Reilly, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Michael Lynes, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**110. Fungal Diversity on the Surface of Cheese**

Samip Shah, Biological Sciences

Advisor: David Benson, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

**111. Visualization and Comparison of Dicer Expression in Various Melanocytic Tumor Types**

Katherine Han, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Soheil (Sam) Dadras, Assistant Professor, Genetics and Developmental Biology

**112. A Role Of The Drosophila PGC-1 Homologue Spargel in Dopaminergic Neuroprotection Against Rotenone**

Munzareen Khan, Cognitive Science, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Yih-Woei Fridell, Assistant Professor, Allied Health Sciences

**113. Synaptic effects of the overexpression of collybistin and protocadherin in neurons of the cerebral cortex**

Rachel Harris, Biological Sciences

Jarrett Masson, Biological Sciences

Celia Miralles, Staff, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Angel De Blas, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology



**114. The Role of Neurexins in the Organization of Synaptic Proteins**

Divya Keerthy, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Angel deBlas, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

**115. Steps Toward Direct Reprogramming of Fibroblasts to GABA-ergic Neurons**

Charlotte Smith, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Joseph LoTurco, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

**116. NaPi-II-Type (SLC34) Transporters are not present in Adult and Neonate Rat Choroid Plexus Cells**

Hien Le, Physiology and Neurobiology

Amy Batallie, Post-Doc, Physiology and Neurobiology

Sonda Parker, Research Assistant, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Larry Renfro, Professor and Department Head, Physiology and Neurobiology

**117. Age-Related Structural Changes to the Ependymal Layer Lining the Subventricular Zone Stem Cell Niche**

John Peters, Biological Sciences

Brett Shook, Graduate Student, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Joanne Conover, Associate Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

**118. Correlating DNA and protein motifs: A new algorithm and its applications**

William Lindsay, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Daniel Schwartz, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

**119. Bipolar Interneurons are not produced in the absence of Citron Kinase in the Developing Rat Retina**

Nisarg Chhaya, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Rahul Kanadia, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

**120. Spectroscopic and Photophysical Analysis of Chloride Ion Pumping Mutants of Bacteriorhodopsin**

Erin Duffy, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Robert Birge, Professor, Chemistry

**121. Characterization and Prototype Development of Bacteriorhodopsin-Based Photonic Devices**

Caroline Rogi, Molecular and Cell Biology

Jordan Greco, Graduate Student, Chemistry

Advisor: Robert Birge, Professor, Chemistry

## **122. Computer Modeling of Bacteriorhodopsin for Use in a Chemical Sensor Device**

Alex Minge, Molecular and Cell Biology

Advisor: Robert Birge, Professor, Chemistry

## **123. The Sizing of Graphene Oxide Particles: Determining the distribution of graphene oxide particles under differing chemical conditions**

Samik Das, Chemical Engineering

AJ Oyer, Graduate Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Douglas Adamson, Associate Professor, Chemistry

## **124. Diazonium Synthesis of Nitrated Graphene Oxide**

Adam Woomer, Chemistry

Advisor: Douglas Adamson, Associate Professor, Chemistry

## **125. Resonant Laser Ablation and its Signal Enhancing Effects**

Marisia Fikiet, Chemistry

Syed Ali, Chemistry

Kehley Davies, Graduate Student, Chemistry

Danielle Cleveland, Graduate Student, Chemistry

Advisor: Robert Michel, Professor, Chemistry

## **126. Quantifying Evolutionary Progression of Stickleback Fish by Measuring Whole-body Sodium Concentration Using Flame Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy**

Alexandra Longacre, Chemistry

Ramizahmed Desai, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Robert Michel, Professor, Chemistry

## **127. Elucidating the mechanism of antimigratory activity of cardiac glycosides**

Joshua Johnson, Molecular and Cell Biology

Anniefer Magpusao, Graduate Student, Chemistry

Advisor: Mark Peczuh, Associate Professor, Chemistry

## **128. Fabrication and SIMPLEX Optimization of Nano-structured Surfaces for Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy**

Patrick Field, Chemistry

Timothy Bauer, Chemical Engineering

Amelia Edward, Chemical Engineering

Elizabeth Guerrero, Chemistry

Laura Purcell, Chemistry

Advisor: Robert Michel, Professor, Chemistry

**129. Esterification of Levulinic Acid**

Meghan Negus, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Chemistry

**130. Use of Continuous-Flow Processing as a Tool for Preparative Organic Chemistry**

Christopher Lee, Biomedical Engineering

Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Chemistry

**131. Application of Microwave Heating in the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory**

Timothy Monos, Chemistry

Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor of Chemistry, Chemistry

**132. Developing New Approaches to Important Bond-Forming Reactions in Organic Chemistry**

Casey Camire, Chemistry

Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Chemistry

**133. Mapping the Binding Site of DX-52-1 to Radixin Using Site Directed Mutagenesis**

Stephen Lincoln, Chemical Engineering

Advisor: Gabriel Fenteany, Associate Professor, Chemistry

**134. Synthesis, Characterization, and Application of Photocatalytic Titania-based Aerogels for the Degradation of Volatile Organic Compounds**

Dayton Horvath, Chemistry

Advisor: Steven Suib, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Chemistry

**135. Evolutionary Radiation of Protea**

Nikisha Patel, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Kent Holsinger, Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**136. Sequencing of the intestinal aquaporin 1 gene in the alewife (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)**

Emily Funk, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Eric Schultz, Associate Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**137. Phenotypic plasticity and extinction risk in South African plants: a reaction norm approach to species distribution modeling**

Colin Carlson, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Carl Schlichting, Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**138. Biodiversity Complexity in the Australian "Tick Tock" Cicadas**

Patrick Gero, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Chris Simon, Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**139. The Anatomical basis for low Wood Density in Pelargonium**

Georgia Thomas, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Cynthia Jones, Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**140. Oviposition Site Choice in Anurans**

Alexander Shepack, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Mark Urban, Assistant Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**141. Exploring the Evolution of the Arthropod Labrum in the Red Flour Beetle, *Tribolium castaneum***

Matt Gaudio, Biological Sciences

Frank Smith, Graduate Student, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Elizabeth Jockusch, Associate Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**142. Statistical Modeling of Seasonal Differences in Habitat Selection of Three Species of Terrestrial Gastropods**

Katherine Abbott, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

Advisor: Michael Willig, Director, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**143. Salinity Preference of Alaskan Threespine Stickleback: Test for Divergence in Halotaxis between Ancestral and Landlocked Populations**

David Fryxell, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Eric Schultz, Associate Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

**144. Phylogeography on a Dynamic Landmass: mtDNA gene trees for *Kikihia cutora* species complex**

Emily Ellis, Biological Sciences

Advisor: Chris Simon, Professor, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

# ROTUNDA

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

### **145. Analyzing Properties of the *C. elegans* Neural Network: Mathematically Modeling a Biological System**

Tyler Reese, Mathematics

Antoni Brzoska, Mathematics

Daniel Kelleher, Graduate Student, Mathematics

Advisor: Alexander Teplyaev, Associate Professor of Mathematics

### **146. Spectral based clustering of time series of EEG recordings**

Elizabeth Gileau, Mathematics/Statistics

Advisor: Nalini Ravishanker, Professor, Statistics

### **147. The Social Implications of Bisensory Impairments**

Laura Matlin, Communication Sciences

Advisor: Kathleen Cienkowski, Associate Professor, Communication Sciences

### **148. Consistency of Attenuation Across Multiple Fittings of Custom and Non-Custom Earplugs**

Kelly Jahn, Communication Sciences

John Byram, Graduate Student, Communication Sciences

Advisor: Jennifer Tufts, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences

### **149. Cognitive Effects of a Cannabinoid (CB1) Receptor Inverse Agonist and Neutral Antagonist in an Animal Model**

Cassie LaRossa, Biological Sciences

Advisor: James Chrobak, Associate Professor, Psychology

### **150. Ischemic Stroke Aphasia Model: Investigating Laterality of Language in Rodents**

Sarah Doran, Molecular and Cell Biology

Louise McCullough, Associate Professor/Clinical, Neurology, UConn Health Center

Advisor: Holly Roslyn Fitch, Professor, Psychology

### **151. Reliability of auditory cortical neuron responses to sound rhythm**

Lauren Kascak, Individualized Program, Systems of Cellular Neurobiology

Advisor: Read Lauren, Associate Professor, Psychology

**152. Effort-related choice behavior is affected by pharmacological manipulations associated with depression: Effects of tetrabenazine.**

Megan Huizenga, Psychology

Advisor: John Salamone, Professor, Psychology

**153. The effects of tetrabenazine on effort-related choice behavior**

Victoria Nowak, Psychology

Patrick Randall, Graduate Student, Psychology

Eric Nunes, Graduate Student, Psychology

Advisor: John Salamone, Professor, Psychology

**154. Adenosine-dopamine interactions in the open field arena: Studies related to locomotion and anxiety**

Rothem Kovner, Psychology

Patrick Randall, Graduate Student, Psychology

Advisor: John Salamone, Professor, Psychology

**155. Caffeine and Memory: Should You Drink Caffeine While You Study or During the Test?**

Sara Pallay, Animal Science

Nicholas Paul, Graduate Student, Behavioral Neuroscience

Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor, Psychology

**School of Nursing**

**156. The Impact of Dietary Fat on Symptoms of Premenstrual Syndrome**

Danielle Millar, Nursing

Advisor: Michelle Judge, Assistant Professor in Residence, Nursing

**Neag School of Education**

**157. The Influence of the Blood Lipid-Lipoprotein Profile on Psychological Well Being**

Kelsey Darragh, Allied Health Sciences

Jeff Capizzi, ACES

Beth Parker, Coordinator, Exercise and Genetics Collaborative Research Group

Priscilla Clarkson, Professor of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Paul D. Thompson, MD, Hartford Hospital

Advisor: Linda Pescatello, Professor, Kinesiology

**158. The Socio-Medical Effects of Danish Smoking Rates**

Sarah Oravec, Individualized Major

Advisor: Kenneth Fuchsman, Assistant Extension Professor, Continuing Studies

**159. Implementing Computer Vision in Robot-Assisted Physical Therapy**

Gregory Breuer, Structural Biology and Biophysics

Timothy Gifford, Graduate student, Psychology

Advisor: Anjana Bhat, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

**160. Relationships among Measures of Habitual Physical Activity, Cardiorespiratory Fitness, and Muscular Strength among Healthy Adults Across the Lifespan**

Allie Leblanc, Allied Health Sciences

Jeff Capizzi, ACES

Beth Parker, Coordinator, Exercise and Genetics Collaborative Research Group

Paul D. Thompson, Hartford Hospital

Priscilla M. Clarkson, Professor of Kinesiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Dr. Paul D. Thompson, MD, Hartford Hospital

Advisor: Linda Pescatello, Professor, Kinesiology

**161. The Effects of Rectal Temperature and Hydration Status on Perceptual Ratings in Dehydrating Males**

Ethan Talbot, Physiology and Neurobiology

Advisor: Lawrence Armstrong, Professor, Kinesiology

## **Special Thanks**

The Office of Undergraduate Research wishes to thank the deans of the represented schools and colleges, the Provost's office, and the generous donors to the Honors Program for their support of undergraduate research through contributions to the Summer Undergraduate Research Fund and OUR grant programs. In addition, we thank the following individuals for their support:

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