CAL STATE LA

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities
Awardee List for 2025

First Overall Oral Presentation
Phi Kappa Phi
Samuel Groysman B.S. Biochemistry *Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yixian Wang
Second Overall Oral Presentation
Phi Kappa Phi
Isuru Rajapakshe M.S. Electrical Engineering *Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won
Third Overall Oral Presentation
Phi Kappa Phi
Hannah Calistri M.A. Anthropology *Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

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California State University, Los Angeles Delegates to the 39th Annual CSU Student Research Competition at Cal Poly Humboldt on April 25-26, 2025

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Drusilla Szakto
B.A. Psychology
Examining Eyewitness Decision Making Under Real World Conditions Using the Field Simulation Paradigm
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

Humanities I: Humanities and Communities

Isaac Collins
Master of Social Work
Black Americans Attitudes and Perceptions of Mental Health Services
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Margarita Villagrana

Marjorie Hunt
M.A. History
The Wild and Unfree: Geographies of Nature and Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kittiya Lee

Humanities II: Anthropology and Archeology

Hannah Calistri
M.A. Anthropology
Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

Political Science

Arwa Hammad
B.A. Philosophy, Option in Pre-Law, B.S. Political Science, Option in Pre-Law
Stretching Democracy: Third Parties and the Necessity of Democratic Elasticity
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael McLendon

Biological and Health Sciences

Yahan Lin
B.S. Biochemistry
Investigating the roles of TlyA and FtsZ in circadian control of cell division in cyanobacteria
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen

Computer Science

Isuru Rajapakshe
M.S. Electrical Engineering
Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won

Engineering

Alejandro Sanchez
B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Improving the performance of lithium-ion batteries at high temperatures for space applications
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Bachman

Physical Sciences
Samuel Groysman B.S. Biochemistry *Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement* Faculty Mentor: Yixian Wang
Evelyn Scott M.S. Physics *Protostar Disk Dynamics of Oph IRS 63* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Terebey

The following students received an outstanding presentation award at the

Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

Oral Presentations

Behavioral and Social Sciences
Mei Ku M.A. Psychology *The Contributions of Rumination, Catastrophizing, and Depression in the Associations Between Adverse Childhood Events and Gastrointestinal Symptoms in a Predominantly Hispanic/Latino Sample* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yvette Szabo
Sarena Eworonsky B.A. Psychology *Exploring the Role of Juror Bias on Decision-Making in a Civil Case* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alma Olaguez
Humanities I: Humanities and Communities
Marjorie Hunt M.A. History *The Wild and Unfree: Geographies of Nature and Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kittiya Lee
Humberto Hernandez Mendez B.A. Sociology, Women's Gender & Sexualities Studies *Tranifesting Community Transition: On the Binary Structures of ICE, Gender-Based Violence, and the Impacts on Undocumented Gender-Variant People of Color* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Molly Talcott
Humanities II: Anthropology and Archeology
Hannah Calistri M.A. Anthropology *Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

Political Science
Arwa Hammad B.A. Philosophy, Option in Pre-Law, B.S. Political Science, Option in Pre-Law *Stretching Democracy: Third Parties and the Necessity of Democratic Elasticity* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael McLendon
Biological and Health Sciences
Teegan Boyd M.S. Kinesiology *Neck Muscle Functional Characteristics in Individuals with Forward Head Posture* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Leila Rahnama
Yahan Lin B.S. Biochemistry *Investigating the roles of TlyA and FtsZ in circadian control of cell division in cyanobacteria* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen
Computer Science
Isuru Rajapakshe M.S. Electrical Engineering *Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won
Rajkin Chakrobarty B.S. Biochemistry *Post transcriptional modifications: thermodynamic insights on the enzymatic amination reaction of Uracil to Cytosine* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Olaseni Sode
Engineering
Andy Damas M.S. Mechanical Engineering *Circulation Patterns in Horizontal Rectangular Enclosures due to Humidity in Air* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Arturo Pacheco-Vega
Alejandro Sanchez B.S. Mechanical Engineering *Improving the performance of lithium-ion batteries at high temperatures for space applications* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Bachman
Physical Sciences
Evelyn Scott M.S. Physics *Protostar Disk Dynamics of Oph IRS 63* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Terebey
Samuel Groysman B.S. Biochemistry *Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yixian Wang

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Poster Presentations

Behavioral and Social Sciences
Angel Chen and Beth Santana M.S. Nutritional Science; B.S. Nutritional Science *The Role of Food Pantries in Los Angeles in Promoting Fruits and Vegetables Consumption* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathryn Amanda Hillstrom
Noemi Alanis B.A. Psychology *Parental Perceptions of Math Language and Learning Skills in Educational YouTube Videos* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corinne Bower
C. Kenobi Donart, Zarife Agin, and Mei Ku M.S. Psychology; B.A. Psychology; M.A. Psychology *Stressful life events and mental health: Emotion dysregulation accounts for depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yvette Z. Szabo
Lisette G. Bailey and Evelyn Mojarro-Pedroza M.A. Psychology; B.A. Psychology *Voting Trends Among Hispanic Americans: A Comparative Study of 2016 through 2022 Was "Latinos for Trump" a real change in voting behavior or media sensationalism?* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heidi Riggio
Biological Sciences
Tshering Y. Bhutia B.A. Psychology *Optimizing tissue clearing protocols to investigate three-dimensional circuits in rodent spinal cord following injury* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Selvan Joseph
Alfredo Gonzalez, Aidan Reyes, and Jaelyn Asamoah M.S. Chemistry; B.S. Biological Sciences; B.S. Biochemistry *Investigating the Relationship Between Thermal Hysteresis and Ice Recrystallization Inhibition Activity in Hyperactive Insect Antifreeze Protein Mutants* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Xin Wen
Parker Saikley B.S. Microbiology *Investigating the Role for Rbp2 in the regulation of the circadian clock in cyanobacteria* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen
Education
Qiong Wu M.A. Child Development *Examining Challenges of Chinese Immigrant Male Early Childhood Educators through Acculturation and Cultural Capitals* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yafen Lo

Engineering and Computer Science
William Pasillas, Derreck Soriano, and Isuru Rajapakshe B.S. Electrical Engineering *Changes in neural network associations with RTMS for depression* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won
Nathan Brieu B.S. Mechanical Engineering *Experimental simulation and optimization study of the hydrogen-rich gas production via a methanol steam reforming reactor* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Petr Vozka
Jordan Doose M.S. Computer Science *Computer-Vision Based Landing Guidance for Autonomous Marine Exploration* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Salvador Rojas
Physical and Mathematical Sciences
Damian Salas B.A. Geography *All Burnt Up: Changes in California Wildfires and their Consequences on Air Quality* Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jingjing Li and Dr. Alireza Farahmand
Tommy Taing B.S. Chemistry *Utilization of Titanium and Indium-based Porphyrin Metal-Organic Frameworks for Fabrication of Photovoltaic Solar Cells* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yangyang Liu
Jonathan Davidson M.S. Mathematics *Monochromatic Rectangles in Grids* Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason O'Neill