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Honors Corner

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Honors Corner

National Undergraduate Research Week Celebrations

The University celebrated National Undergraduate Research Week April 17th through 21st. A combined effort of the Honors College, University Libraries, and the Office of Undergraduate Research. DRI, this week recognized the work of undergraduate students and provided extensive programming to help students develop their research initiatives. The feature event of the week was the Research Poster Competition. Sixty-seven students submitted abstracts to the first round, and fifty students moved on to the poster and presentation round which were judged by faculty panels. Students presented their posters at an in-person session on April 20th in the Union Ballroom. The students competed in seven different discipline categories, four of which were divided into two competition groups due to the high number of submissions. The first-place winners in each category provided a quote about the value of research to their academic experience.

Competition Winners

Category: Art and Design

Name: Lilli Martin

Honors Affiliation: Honors Student

Major(s): Apparel Merchandising and Product Development

Title: Creating Adaptive Clothing for Dialysis Patients

Quote: My undergraduate research has given me the experience to create a solution to a real-world problem. I've been able to gain a deeper understanding and knowledge of the apparel industry and the needs of those in our community. Conducting my research has been an opportunity to help find solutions for those who are often looked over in the apparel industry and has helped me find a gap in the industry and has inspired me to fill that gap.



Category: Business & Social Sciences

Name: Gabrielle Gies

Honors Affiliation: Honors College Fellow

Major(s): Political Science (and Psychology)

Title: Analysis of The Relationship Between Pharmaceutical Political Action Committee Contributions And Congressional Voting Actions



Quote: I have had a great experience working with Dr. Song on this research project for the past several semesters. I've learned so much about how to gather and report data, run statistical analyses, and present my research to others. I'm very thankful I had this opportunity and can't imagine a more useful way to apply my learning in my undergraduate career.

Category: Engineering 1

Name: Julliana Renales

Honors Affiliation: Honors Student

Major(s): Biomedical Engineering

Title: Mapping Macrophage Fate in Muscle Injuries Using Spatial Transcriptomics



Quote: This research experience has allowed me pursue passions and skills that I did not think I would have the opportunity to do. It has been the best learning experience to apply my skills and watching my project develop has given me new motivation for future endeavors. I would like to sincerely thank my research advisor and mentor, Dr. Chris Nelson for this opportunity and continuous support.

Category: Engineering 2

Name: David Heinrichs

Major(s): Biomedical Engineering

Title: Assessing the Effects of Dasatinib on Mesenchymal Stem Cell Potency

Quote: The past few months researching in a lab have been more productive than the last year of school. Getting to experience what it's like to work in a lab has provided invaluable experience in the biomedical field, as well as the academic field overall. I have learned to divide my focus to work on multiple complex things such as running experiments, processing data, and interpreting results all at once which I can use in the future to provide a valuable insight and work ethic in the medical field.



Category: Health

Name: Kyra Resende

Honors Affiliation: Honors Student

Major(s): Communication Sciences and Disorders

Title: Measuring awareness of SPD and interprofessional collaboration & practices among professionals in an elementary public school setting

Quote: Over the past two years, my Honors undergraduate research project has provided me with meaningful experiences, context, and information on a topic that is so important to me. I am very grateful to have been able to participate in the Undergraduate Research Poster Competition and share the findings of my project, and I am honored to have been recognized. This event has given me a great exposure on presenting research and it was fun to see the amazing research that other students have conducted. I am also deeply grateful for my mentor, Dr. Angela Elsass, for her help, support, and guidance during this process.



Category: Humanities

Name: Joshua Jacobs

Honors Affiliation: Bodenhamer Fellow

Major(s): Classical Studies

Title: PQD in the Prophets

Quote: I will be attending graduate school next fall, and the opportunity to conduct and present my own research during my undergraduate career has been a crucial step towards my academic and professional goals. As a humanist, I rarely have the opportunity to present my research through the poster medium, and this experience allowed me to learn what a good research poster and presentation looks like.



Category: Natural Sciences 1

Name: Ashlyn DesCarpentrie

Honors Affiliation: Sturgis Fellow

Major(s): Chemistry

Title: Developing Methods for Pattern Transfer in Photoelectrochemical Lithography

Quote: Research has taught me far more about chemistry and about what it takes to be an independent and creative scientist than a classroom setting alone ever could. I'm very grateful for the encouragement and support of the UARK Honors College for undergraduate students interested in academic research. These experiences have helped prepare me to continue my academic career to doctoral studies in chemistry.



Category: Natural Sciences 2

Name: Ethan Peters

Honors Affiliation: Honors College Fellow

Major(s): Biochemistry and Spanish

Title: Design of a Stable Variant of FGF1-FGF2 Dimer with Potent Cell Proliferation Activity

Quote: Undergraduate research has been a pathway for me to apply my theoretical knowledge about biochemistry to a tangible project which I hope will effect change. I now have the skillset to continue research during medical school as well as synthesize complex information into a digestible format, which is an essential skill for physicians. I am honored to be recognized in this way, and enthusiastically encourage any undergraduates considering research to go for it!



Category: Social Science 1

Name: Sophia Chier

Honors Affiliation: Honors Student

Major(s): Psychology

Title: Longevity Bias, Ingroup Bias, and Culture: A Comparative Study in the U.S. and Japan

Quote: I was extremely fortunate to be able to do my research while studying abroad in Japan thanks to funding from the Honors College. I never imagined that I would be able to even travel to a foreign country, much less do psychology research while I was there! I learned so many valuable lessons about how to conduct research while simultaneously experiencing a new culture and practicing a new language. I am planning my future around returning to Japan and working there because of this experience, and I am so grateful.



Category: Social Science 2

Name: Cindy Mao

Honors Affiliation: Honors student

Major(s): Public Health & Psychology

Title: Creativity and Humor: The Role of Alcohol Expectation Effects and Familiarity in Creative Cognition

Quote: In my undergraduate research experience, I've learned everything involved in creating, designing, and executing an in-person psychology study. I've grown confident in my abilities as a presenter, and I'm excited to continue research in public health and medicine. Research is powerful and valuable, and that knowledge can be used to further discussion and development in all fields.

