

# Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal

---

Volume 22

Article 7

---

Fall 2023

## Honors Corner

Inquiry Editors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/inquiry>

---

### Recommended Citation

Editors, I. (2023). Honors Corner. *Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal*, 22(2). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/inquiry/vol22/iss2/7>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UARK. It has been accepted for inclusion in Inquiry: The University of Arkansas Undergraduate Research Journal by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks@UARK. For more information, please contact [scholar@uark.edu](mailto:scholar@uark.edu).

## *Honors Corner Fall 2023*

In October 2023, the Honors College partnered with the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards and the Office of Undergraduate Research to assist students applying for the State Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). The SURF, awarded by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, is a competition between students from colleges and universities across the state of Arkansas. 161 students applied! Such a high number speaks to the exciting amount of undergraduate research that is happening at the University of Arkansas. 35 students were awarded a SURF (34 of whom are honors students). The Honors College awarded Honors College Research Grants to 96 honors students, 10 of whom are also alternates for SURF. The Office of Undergraduate Research awarded funds to 13 students.

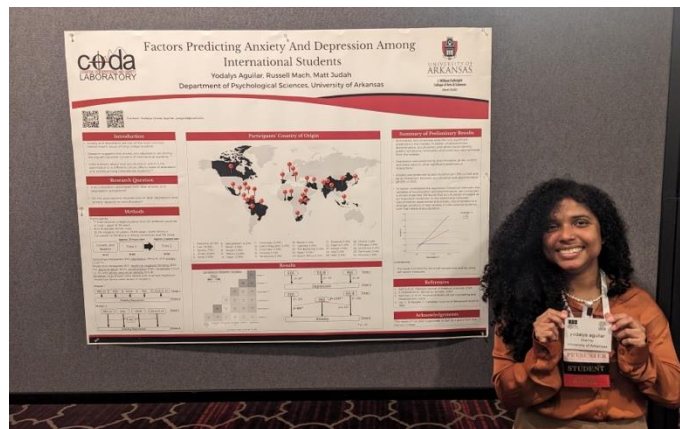
In the Fall 2023 semester, the Honors College saw a notable increase in the number of honors students presenting research at regional and national conferences. After a big dip during the pandemic, we are happy that students are once again able to travel to exciting places and share their research findings. Twenty-three students received Honors College Conference Travel Grants this semester. Students traveled to all corners of the country, from Seattle and San Francisco to Baltimore and Philadelphia, and many places in-between.

Conference presentations serve many purposes for students. These opportunities are important additions to students' resumes, demonstrating that their research has value to a larger audience. They also practice explaining their research succinctly and fielding questions about their work. These skills are invaluable for their eventual thesis defense and graduate or professional school interviews. Returning students comment on the constructive feedback they receive from conference attendees and how this has helped them think about their research in new ways. Finally, conferences give students the opportunity to network with potential graduate school mentors, fellow scholars in the field, and academics and professionals.

In this Honors Corner, we are featuring seven honors students who presented their research this semester, including a brief quote from each about the value of their experience.

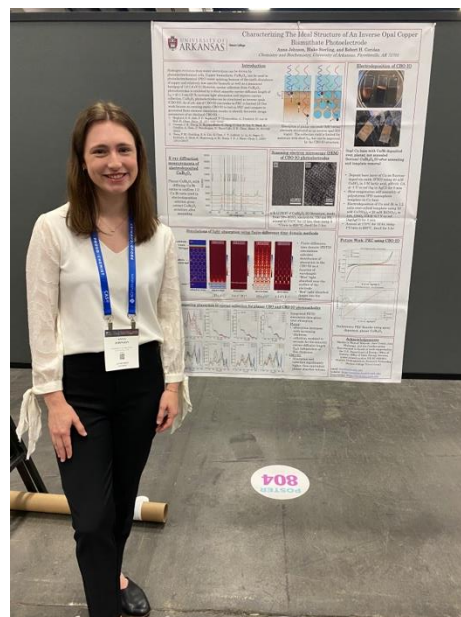
**Yodalys Aguilar**, Honors Psychology  
Mentor: Matt Judah  
National Latinx Psychological Association  
Chicago, IL

“This conference was totally different from any other conference I have attended. This conference was full of culture, traditions, and diversity. As I walked in, I could see people I could identify with. For the first time in my life, I felt I belonged at a scientific conference. This conference felt like a community where everyone cares for one another. I met people who provided feedback on my research analysis, like considering that international students who are close to graduation may feel more overwhelmed due to immigration policies.”



**Anna Johnson**, Honors Chemistry  
Mentor: Robert Coridan  
American Chemical Society Meeting  
San Francisco, CA

“Attending this conference and presenting my research project will help me prepare for defending an Honors Thesis in the upcoming spring semester. I became more confident in my ability to present my project, and I learned how to field and answer questions, which will prove invaluable tools for the near future and beyond. It was an enriching experience, and the encounters I had will impact my future research endeavors.”



**Terrell Page**, Honors English Education  
Mentor: David Fredrick  
Serious Play Conference  
Toronto, Canada

“Though some presentations were from K-12 instructors, many were from university professors, therapists, and other professionals. I learned from all of them, and I will bring what I learned into my future classroom. I hope to even bring some of it into my upcoming student teaching internship next semester! ... Presenting at this conference gave me some much-needed confidence for when I present at the UARK COEHP Honors Symposium in Spring 2024. I presented in a track reserved for graduate students inside of a larger conference full of mid-career experts...as an undergraduate student! Regarding this research, I feel prepared to handle any challenge that comes my way!”



**Olivia Peterson**, Honors Public Health  
Mentor: Page Dobbs  
American Public Health Association Conference  
Atlanta, GA

“One of the most enriching aspects of the conference was the opportunity to gain insight into the latest developments of e-cigarette usage globally. The presentations and exposition provided me with a fresh perspective on my research, inspiring innovative ideas in which I plan to integrate. Hearing from organizations like The Truth Initiative, a nonprofit inspiring life free from vaping, only deepened my passion for this research.”



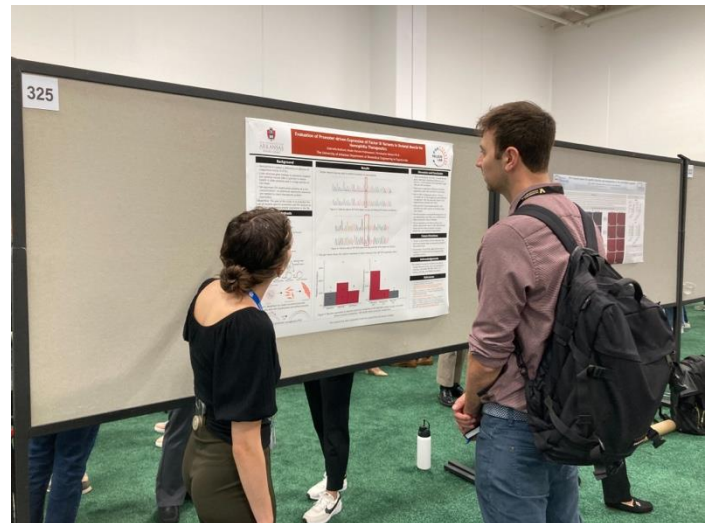
**Ethan Weems**, Honors Mechanical Engineering  
Mentor: Han Hu  
American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
Summer Heat Transfer Conference  
Washington D.C.

“I found the conference to be enormously beneficial to my career planning. I attended countless technical presentations and was introduced to several research topics that I had never been exposed to before... I would recommend all students attend a conference within their field of study and/or interest because the work being done is truly remarkable...the conference allowed me to establish new professional connections, listen to world experts present their work, and develop closer relationships with the other members of my lab.”



**Gabrielle Bulliard**, Honors Biomedical Engineering  
Mentor: Chris Nelson  
Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting  
Seattle, WA

“Meeting with other scientists who were interested in my work was an uplifting experience. It showed me the community that I am a part of and the wonderful people that are in it. Attending this conference further cemented my plans and highlighted my love for the research that I do. I aim to continue pushing the efficacy of genetic engineering in my graduate career, and I now feel prepared to find a graduate school that is the right match for me.”





**Sydney Buford**, Honors Apparel Merchandising and Product Development  
Mentor: Eunjoo Cho  
International Textile and Apparel Association Annual Conference  
Baltimore, MD

“One of the most exciting points of the conference was meeting researchers that I had cited in my research. It was truly amazing to talk to them about how they got to where they are today and how they became interested in that topic. I also heard multiple researchers reference my mentor’s research, which made me really proud...Presenting undergraduate research at an international conference was an incredible experience that I will always cherish.”

