



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN  
STATE UNIVERSITY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM  
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

# ***SFA Undergraduate Research Conference***

**2025**



**4 TO 7 P.M. | APRIL 15**

**BAKER PATTILLO STUDENT CENTER  
THEATER AND TWILIGHT BALLROOM**



# Schedule of Events

## Baker Pattillo Student Center Theater

- 4 p.m.**                      **Opening announcements: Dr. Eric Jones, URC executive committee member**
- 4:10 p.m.**                **Presentation of awards to faculty mentor and top scholars: Dr. Judy Abbott, interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs**

## Top Scholar Presentations

- 4:30 p.m.**                **Lauren Duckworth**  
In the Blink of an Animated Eye  
Faculty sponsors: Benjamin Anderson and Rick Shepardson, School of Art
- 4:42 p.m.**                **Cari Mitchell**  
A Survey of Fruiting Parasitic and Saprotrophic Fungi Species during the Fall Season in Nacogdoches County, TX  
Faculty sponsor: David Kulhavy, Forestry and Geospatial Science
- 4:54 p.m.**                **Hadley Watts**  
Redox Cooperativity Analysis with Computational Chemistry: Interplay Between Energy Matching and Geometric Arrangement in Redox Non-Innocent Systems  
Faculty sponsor: John Brannon Gary, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- 5:06 p.m.**                **Kaytie-Jane Ballard**  
Crossing Conversations: Using Social Media to Advocate for Immigrants at the Texas/Mexico Border  
Faculty sponsor: Ghanem Elhersh, Media and Communication
- 5:18 p.m.**                **Kaitlyn Martin**  
Traditional vs. Artistic Athletes: Comparison of Injury Rehabilitations in Dancers and Standard Athletes  
Faculty sponsor: Andrea Hathcote, Tyler Junior College
- 5:30 p.m.**                **Jules Fields**  
Pathways and Burnout: Investigating Rates of Burnout Between Alternatively Prepared Teachers and Traditionally Prepared Teachers  
Faculty sponsor: Amanda Rudolph, Department of Education Studies
- 5:42 p.m.**                **Zola Westmoreland**  
What are the Main Drivers of State Solar Generation?  
Faculty sponsor: Rebecca Davis, Department of Economics and Finance
- 5:55 p.m.**                **Poster Presentations of Finalists**  
Twilight Ballroom, refreshments served

# Faculty Mentor of the Year

---



**Dr. David Kulhavy**

*Laurence C. Walker  
Distinguished Professor*

Since his arrival at Stephen F. Austin State University, Dr. David Kulhavy, also known as Dr. Bug, has been an advocate of hands-on learning experiences and student involvement in their educational process. From leading 3,000 fifth grade

students and SFA undergraduates in creating an 1,100-foot-long monarch butterfly migration poster at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History to organizing the Insect Expo for 5,000 students, and delivering over 900 insect-focused presentations for children, Kulhavy's dedication to education earned him the national teaching award from the Entomological Society of America and a place in the University of Idaho Hall of Fame. For forestry education, Kulhavy was recognized by the Society of American Foresters with the Carl Alwin Schenck National Teaching Award, and the A. D. Hopkins Award for Southern Forest Entomology. Kulhavy is a Piper Professor, Regents Professor, SFASU Foundation Teaching award recipient, and recognized by the SFA Alumni Association. Kulhavy can be seen flying drones and devising projects with the Drone Squad and students. These activities lead to undergraduate student poster presentations, oral presentations and referred publications, and the FAA 107 drone license. Kulhavy promotes Service Learning, 20 by 20 presentations on forest insects, and the interactive "Bug Dance," based on music written by Kulhavy, for students studying "Forest Insects and Disease" as a rite of passage.

# Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts Top Scholar

---



## Lauren Duckworth

### In the Blink of an Animated Eye

Even when animated characters look real in terms of texture, shading and lighting, they still come off as robotic and dead eyed. Through researching the works of Walter Murch, film editor and sound designer, along with other filmmakers and animators, I found the issue stems from a lack of attention to the design, movement and performance of characters' eyes. As

an animation student, I asked myself how I could design and animate eyes that deliver the same performance as real actors.

Before I could begin drawing the eyes, I studied how real actors use their eyes in performances for live-action films. My research included both academic inquiry and practical studio work. First, I explored how the performance of eyes communicates emotional subtext with minimal dialogue in film trailers. Next, I studied unedited dailies to see how actors use their eyes in several dialogue scenes. Then, I edited these scenes to practice employing the subtle performance for specific purposes.

Alongside this studio-based research, I analyzed how Murch made rhythmic editing choices by cutting to the blinking of actor's eyes. Furthermore, I explored how Hayao Miyazaki, Japanese animator and filmmaker, uses composition to guide the viewer's eye, creating dynamic interactions between the characters in the Studio Ghibli film, "Spirited Away."

Finally, I designed, drew and animated a prototype pair of eyes using techniques like eye glint to add depth and life to the pupils. My conference submission will offer fellow animators, film students and the public insight into how attention to the eyes can give life to the animated character.



# Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture Top Scholar

---



## Cari Mitchell

### **A Survey of Fruiting Parasitic and Saprotrophic Fungi Species during the Fall Season in Nacogdoches County, TX**

Saprotrophic fungi are a type of fungi responsible for decomposing organic material. They play a major role in our environment as cyclers of nutrients in the ecosystem. They not only feed on dead material, but on decaying areas on living organisms. Nacogdoches, Texas is located in the piney woods ecoregion and is known to be a heavily forested area with a humid

climate, featuring a diverse range of fungi species. There are several applications available that can be used to help track the locations of where these species may be found, along with documenting relevant notes: iNaturalist is an application that can be used to do so, and the ArcGIS Pro software can be used to further create an interactive map to display this information. For this survey, these tools were used in conjunction with one another to complete a survey of and assess the fungal species found throughout the 2024 fall season in Nacogdoches.

# College of Sciences and Mathematics Top Scholar

---



## Hadley Watts

### Redox Cooperativity Analysis with Computational Chemistry: Interplay Between Energy Matching and Geometric Arrangement in Redox Non-Innocent Systems

Electron transfer or redox events are fundamental to chemical reactions. Most chemical processes are two-electron processes (organic arrow pushing mechanisms, resonance and oxidative addition/reductive

elimination in organometallic chemistry). Due to their ability to participate in two-electron chemistry, platinum group metals are commonly utilized in catalysis reactions although they are incredibly expensive. Cooperativity between multiple redox sites is ubiquitous in enzyme systems. Cheap and Earth-abundant metals can participate cooperatively, allowing them to perform multi-electron chemistry, when they typically only undergo one-electron redox chemistry. Even though this reaction scheme is prevalent in many enzymes, the mechanism behind this cooperativity is still unclear due to the complexity and variety of different enzyme systems. There are three main properties that can potentially play a role in cooperativity in enzyme systems: proximity, energy matching and geometric orientation. My project has been focused on determining the relationship between these properties to determine what is required for successful cooperativity. Literature is focused only on the electronic energy matching of redox sites to participate in multi-electron chemistry. Previously, our group has found a unique property in the electronic structure of these systems: multiple electronic configurations which are remarkably close in energy. This shows that electron fluidity appears to be a fundamental property of successful cooperativity in enzyme systems. This presentation will focus on how electronic energy matching between redox sites is tied to the geometric orientation of the redox sites. The interplay between these properties is essential in the design of new redox cooperative systems.

# College of Liberal and Applied Arts Top Scholars

---



## Kaytie-Jane Ballard

### **Crossing Conversations: Using Social Media to Advocate for Immigrants at the Texas/Mexico Border**

The U.S. immigration system and the ongoing crisis at the Texas/Mexico border have become highly politicized issues, often overshadowing the human stories behind immigration. My undergraduate research project explores how social media can be used as a tool for advocacy and awareness, shifting the focus from

political debate to humanitarian concern. Over the course of a semester, I created "Crossing Conversations," an Instagram account dedicated to fostering dialogue about immigration and asylum-seeking. The name represents not only the physical act of crossing borders but also the importance of engaging in critical conversations about immigration.

This project was especially meaningful to me because of my family's personal experiences at the border. We have spent time in Reynosa, Mexico, speaking with migrants and hearing firsthand accounts of the unimaginable hardships they face. These conversations made it clear that most people seeking entry into the U.S. are not all criminals but individuals fleeing violence, persecution and extreme poverty in search of safety. This perspective shaped my approach to "Crossing Conversations," where I sought to humanize immigrants through storytelling, factual information and calls to action, including encouraging followers to contact policymakers.

Through 10 curated posts, I aimed to challenge common misconceptions, highlight the flaws in the U.S. immigration system, and emphasize that immigration is not about politics ... It is about humanity. While some individuals may cross the border for the wrong reasons, the overwhelming majority are simply searching for a better life. By focusing on this reality, "Crossing Conversations" sought to reshape how audiences perceive immigration, encouraging compassion over fear.

This project demonstrates the potential of social media as a tool for social change, particularly in reframing narratives and mobilizing digital activism. It also highlights the challenges of engagement, reach and impact in an increasingly polarized online landscape. Ultimately, "Crossing Conversations" reinforces the idea that behind every statistic is a human being deserving of dignity, understanding and a chance at a better future.

# Regional Colleges Top Scholar

---



**Kaitlyn Martin**

## **Traditional vs. Artistic Athletes: Comparison of Injury Rehabilitations in Dancers and Standard Athletes**

The study aims to compare the rehabilitation patterns of dancers, artistic athletes, and basketball players, standard athletes. The research question is what is the most effective method of rehabilitating dancer's injuries? There is currently no widely accepted injury-prevention training program for dancers in the

same way there is for traditional athletes. The methodology of the study will be a survey gathering information regarding the athlete's type of injury, cause of injury, rehabilitation pattern/process, length of time to return to sport as normal, etc. The intended results of the study are to find the key differences in healing patterns between the artistic and traditional athlete is due to differences in mobility and training type/intensity. The conclusion hopes to answer how to effectively treat dancer's injuries by taking known programs for traditional athletes and revamping them to fit the artistic athletes.

# James I. Perkins College of Education Top Scholar

---



## Jules Fields

### **Pathways and Burnout: Investigating Rates of Burnout between Alternatively Prepared Teachers and Traditionally Prepared Teachers**

Teacher burnout is a significant issue that negatively affects teacher retention and student performance. Uncertified teachers are becoming the majority in the teaching workforce. Recent data reports show that in the 2023-24 school year, 52% of first-time hired teachers were uncertified (Marder et al., 2024). This study investigates levels of burnout and how they differ between traditionally certified and alternatively certified teachers in Texas. The theoretical framework for this research is the Maslach Burnout Theory which conceptualizes burnout as a response to occupational stress (Maslach, 1998).

The sample consisted of K-12 teachers, including both traditionally and alternatively certified educators. Inclusion criteria required participants to be currently employed as teachers in the state of Texas. A cross-sectional survey was conducted via social media platforms, specifically Facebook and Instagram, using a convenience sampling approach. Additionally, snowball sampling was supplemented, as participants were encouraged to share the survey within their networks. The survey included the Teacher Stress Inventory (Fimian, 1984) and demographic questions to gather data on years spent teaching and grade level. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize participant characteristics and burnout levels, while analytic statistics examined differences in burnout between traditionally and alternatively certified teachers. The survey sample included 228 responses with 110 meeting the inclusion criteria. The 110 answers were recorded and analyzed to identify differences in burnout levels between the two groups.

No significant differences in burnout levels between traditionally and alternatively certified teachers were found. However, moderate scores for teacher stress were present in both groups, highlighting the widespread challenges educators face regardless of certification pathway. This research provides insight into teacher burnout across certification pathways. While stress levels did not significantly differ, both certified and uncertified teachers reported moderate stress. The findings in this study support the need for more resources and assistance for all educators, regardless of certification type. Additionally, this project will inform policy and practice to address challenges faced by educators.

# Rusche College of Business Top Scholar

---



## Zola Westmoreland

### What are the Main Drivers of State Solar Generation?

Solar energy is radiation from the sun that is capable of producing heat and generating electricity. There are environmental benefits to generating electricity using solar energy. It is a renewable resource, and if used for electricity generation, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants associated with the electric power sector. Some states have been working toward implementing the use of solar energy. States evaluate their

geographic, economic and environmental conditions to achieve this. Previous research indicates that state unemployment rates, political ideology and educational levels affect solar energy adoption. We are interested in understanding drivers of solar electricity generation by state.

Our analysis considers state population, state gross domestic product, governor political affiliation/state house political affiliation, educational attainment, state size, state unemployment rate, state incentives related to solar energy, and measures for sunshine. We measure state sunshine two ways – first, we utilize the average annual percent of time between sunrise and sunset that sunshine reaches the ground within a state (percent of sun); second, we use the average annual number of days when cloud covers at most 30% of the sky during daylight hours (clear days).

To answer our research question, we use publicly available data and multiple linear regression analysis. We specifically look at which variables impact the amount of electricity generated by solar within a state. There are two main specifications, one for each variable that measures sunshine. Results indicate that SGDP, state size measured in square miles, number of state solar incentives, and percent of sun significantly increase state solar electricity generation. If a state has one additional state incentive for solar energy, state solar generation increases by 158,000 megawatt hours on average, holding all other variables constant. Other results show increases in SGDP, percent of sun, and state size raise state solar generation.

# Rusche College of Business Finalists

**Tison Bailey, Kynlie Foit, Isabel Jedmears,  
and Ian Lahera**

*The Impact of University of Texas System Branding on Stephen F. Austin State University*

Faculty sponsors: Wenjing Li and Pamela Rogers, Department of Management and Marketing

**Lani Berg**

*Skill for Salary*

Faculty sponsor: Ryan Phelps, Department of Economics and Finance

**Vivian Bivens and Kailey Fischer**

*The Ethics of AI in Wealth Management*

Faculty sponsors: Justin Blount and Kristen Waddell, Department of Business Communication and Legal Studies

**Elizabeth J Denyer**

*Attendance at SFA Athletics Events*

Faculty sponsors: Wenjing Li and Pamela Rogers, Department of Management and Marketing

**Amelia G. Hovinga**

*Nike Consumer Research*

Faculty sponsors: Wenjing Li and Pamela Rogers, Department of Management and Marketing

**Anh Nguyen**

*Evaluating U.S. Household Debt*

Faculty sponsor: Beverly Mendoza, Department of Economics and Finance

**Isaiah Snype, Samantha Sorensen, Brylee Adams,  
and Chloe Adams**

*Netflix: Leave Our Household Accounts Alone*

Faculty sponsors: Wenjing Li and Pamela Rogers, Department of Management and Marketing

**Austin Tasker**

*QuickBooks Guide for Your First Accounting Job*

Faculty sponsor: Kelly Noe, Schlieff School of Accountancy

**Sydney Truman and Alexis Anderson**

*Stanley® 1913 Marketing Research*

Faculty sponsors: Wenjing Li and Pamela Rogers, Department of Management and Marketing

# **James I. Perkins College of Education Finalists**

## **Jody Amy**

Professional Development as Your Responsibility: A Mixed Method Reflection

Faculty sponsor: Sarah Straub, Department of Education Studies

## **Mikayla Bailey and Flor Garcia**

Graduate Students Perceptions of Helping Children with Autism Communicate Through Speech Therapy

Faculty sponsor: Jessica Conn, Department of Human Services and Educational Leadership

## **Amielia Beam**

Automated Weather Observing System

Faculty sponsor: Allen Wilson, School of Human Sciences

## **Kennedy Barnhouse**

Building Compassion and Connection: A Case Study of Humane Education through Middle Level Book Club Experiences

Faculty sponsor: Sarah Straub, Department of Education Studies

## **Katie Friedrichsen**

Learning Theories Within Classrooms

Faculty sponsor: Amber Wagnon, Department of Education Studies

## **Erin Golaboff**

Empowering Educators: Enhancing Teaching Strategies for Complex Historical Topics Through Professional Development

Faculty sponsor: Sarah Straub, Department of Education Studies

## **Lily Hargrove**

Caloric Cost of Self-Paced Exercise in Full Body Tabata, Treadmill Running Tabata, and Continuous Running

Faculty sponsor: James Rowe Jr., Department of Kinesiology and Health Science

## **Angela Heaberlin**

Exercising Regularly Can Improve Static Balance of Adults 55 and Older

Faculty sponsor: Amber Chelette, Department of Kinesiology and Health Science

## **Kristina Jones**

School Based Health Clinics in Texas: A Qualitative Survey of Perceived Challenges and Opportunities

Faculty sponsor: John Stewart, Department of Kinesiology and Health Science



# **Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts Finalists**

## **Arie Atkinson**

**Looking for Stability**

Faculty sponsor: Erik Ordaz Lozano, School of Art

## **Susana De la Paz**

**Astronaut and Bubbles: Representing Speech Disability Through Art**

Faculty sponsor: Amanda Breitbach, School of Art

## **Susana De La Paz and Rebekah Glasgow**

***Opposites: Poetry/Art Journal Collaboration***

Faculty sponsor: Peter Andrew, School of Art

## **Kiel Garrett**

***Life is a Dream's Segismundo, a Case Study on Isolation***

Faculty sponsor: Richard Jones, School of Theatre and Dance

## **Leah Kutch**

***Timeline Travelers Process Book***

Faculty sponsor: Danny Anguiano, School of Art

## **Austin Pena**

***Digital Comic Book Development***

Faculty sponsor: Lindsey Creel, School of Art

## **Emily Sanchez**

***The Implementation of Glass Art Fusing in the Classroom***

Faculty sponsor: William Nieberding, School of Art

## **Mia Thornton**

***SFA Art Day: Button Design and Lesson Execution***

Faculty sponsor: Denise Davis, School of Art

# Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture Finalists

## Greta Bergman

*Cattle Health Changes Before, During, and After Parturition*

Faculty sponsor: Erin Brown, Department of Agriculture

## Daniel Cagle, Matthew Petre, and Thomas Edwards

*Mapping the Centennial Pine Trees of Stephen F. Austin  
State University*

Faculty sponsors: David Kulhavy and I-Kuai Hung, Forestry  
and Geospatial Science

## Eli Childre, Sydney Henley, Kelsey Hudspeth, and Jake Miller

*Efficacy of Duckweed Used as Fertilizer: Availability of Soil  
Nutrients in Two Soil Types*

Faculty sponsor: Sheryll Jerez, Division of Environmental Science

## Anna Contreras, Linnea Maddux, Serif Tolleson, Alexandra Marty, and Emily Moore

*Quantifying Emitted Air Lead Concentrations from General Aviation  
Fuel at Georgetown Executive Airport*

Faculty sponsor: Sheryll Jerez, Division of Environmental Science

## Lee Cottle

*Evaluating the Precision of ImageJ for Wildlife Morphometry:  
A Comparison with Traditional Methods for Measuring Amphibians*

Faculty sponsor: Cord Eversole, Forestry and Geospatial Science

## Sydney Cunningham, Elizabeth Smith, Brayden Wagner, and Rachel Nelson

*Ammonia Production from Cattle Feedlot at the Walter C. Todd  
Agricultural Center*

Faculty sponsor: Sheryll Jerez, Division of Environmental Science

## Holli Heim

*Maximizing Chances for Profit when Marketing Cattle in  
Livestock Auctions*

Faculty sponsor: Erin Brown, Department of Agriculture

## Matthew Petre and Daniel Cagle

*Mapping AED Devices Using DJI Mavic Mini 2 Drones on a  
University Campus*

Faculty sponsor: David Kulhavy, Forestry and Geospatial Science

## Matt Petre and Carlos Perez

*Quantifying the Light Pollution Levels Around a Building on  
Stephen F. Austin State University*

Faculty sponsor: Sheryll Jerez, Division of Environmental Science

# College of Liberal and Applied Arts Finalists

## **Chloe Albrecht and Natalie Pradia**

*Understanding AI's Potential in Creativity and Research*

Faculty sponsor: Jason McIntosh, Department of English and Creative Writing

## **Rylie Cerny, Adyson Ratley, and Caitrin Dalton**

*The Heritage Co: Social Media Strategic Plan*

Faculty sponsor: Ghanem Elhersh, Department of Media and Communication

## **Emma Griggs and Ailani Williams**

*Effect of Narrated and Silently Rendered Artificial Intelligence (AI) Output on Comprehension and Satisfaction*

Faculty sponsor: Scott Drury, Department of Psychology

## **Rebecca Jestis**

*The Harsh Realities of Opera Houses and the Continual Popularity of Minstrelsy in Terrell, Texas*

Faculty sponsor: Court Carney, Department of History

## **Misty Ledesma**

*Analyzing the Special Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children in Texas*

Faculty sponsor: Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman Khan, School of Social Work

## **Kate O. Middleton**

*The Effects of Leadership on College Student Well-Being*

Faculty sponsor: Kyle Conlon, Department of Psychology

## **Briley Smith**

*The Role of Internet Liberation in Securing Human Rights*

Faculty sponsor: Lee Payne, Department of Government

# College of Sciences and Mathematics Finalists

## Husna Chaudhary

### Gut Microbiome of Organisms While Under Effect of Rotavirus

Faculty sponsor: Alexandra Van Kley, Department of Biology

## Kathryn Clevenger

### Analysis of Calcium in Eggshells

Faculty sponsor: Alyx Frantzen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Thanh Dao

### Exploring the Therapeutic Potency of Some Polypeptides Against Insulin Aggregation: A Computational Approach to Combat Type-2 Diabetes

Faculty sponsor: Bidisha Sengupta, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Katelyn Defrancis

### Exploring Relationships Between The Index of Biological Integrity and Species Composition Variability in East Texas Streams

Faculty sponsor: Carmen Montana-Schalk, Department of Biology

## Kadin Green, Kayleigh Klein, and Kylie Robertson

### Method Development and Validation of Pesticides by UPLC-MS/MS

Faculty sponsors: Michael Janusa and Jamie Humphries, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Olivia Payne

### Exploring Graphs and Chromatic Symmetric Functions

Faculty sponsor: Colin Lawson, Department of Mathematics and Statistics

## Joseph Sheffield

### Exploring Neotropical Catfish Diversity in Rivers of the Guiana Shield: A Combined Approach Using Taxonomic, Functional, and Isotopic Tools

Faculty sponsor: Carmen Montana-Schalk, Department of Biology

## Perla Tovar

### Antioxidant Properties of Phytochemicals in Watercress and Mint Extracts in Serum Albumin

Faculty sponsor: Bidisha Sengupta, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Marlene Zepeta-Rodriguez and Dayanara Ramirez

### Development Fluorescent Sensor for Sequential Detection of Anions and Cations

Faculty sponsor: Rashid Mia, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

# Regional Colleges Finalists

## **Dallas Allmon**

*Laughing Through the Lens: How Sitcoms Shape Perceptions of Feminism*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Aspen Cunningham**

*Sexual Assault: Emotions and Trauma Experienced by Survivors*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Tadeen Feroz, Tyler Shannon, Taryn Pledger, Kaci Monk, and Olivia Donnelly**

*Relative Sensitivities of Rainbow Trout Gill Cell Cultures,  
Green Algae and Rotifers to Assess the Toxicity of Inorganic and  
Organic Substances*

Faculty sponsor: Scott Dyer, LeTourneau University

## **Maelynn Fuller**

*Adapting Minds: College Students and the Power of  
Human Adaptation*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Samantha Hardy**

*The Psychological Impact of Someone with Sialic Acid  
Storage Disease*

Faculty sponsor: Benetha Jackson, Angelina College

## **Justice Johnson**

*Language Beyond Words: The Effects of Dance Therapy in Children  
with Autism*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Akayla Manning**

*Diving into Hell: Navigating the Intertextual Relationship between  
Dante's Inferno and Hozier's Album Unreal Unearth*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Taryn Pledger, Tadeen Feroz, Kaci Monk, Tyler Shannon, and Olivia Donnelly**

*Assessment of Fish Tissue Cultures as Substitutes for Animal Tests*

Faculty sponsor: Scott Dyer, LeTourneau University

## **Fatema Smadi**

*The Black Death Turns Red: Analyzing a Medieval Ebola Pandemic*

Faculty sponsor: Andrea R. Hathcote, Tyler Junior College

## **Kolby White**

*Tetralogy of Fallot: Its Many Diseases, Psychological Effects,  
and My Experience with It*

Faculty sponsor: Benetha Jackson, Angelina College

## **Kristi Williams**

*The Psychology of Aquagenic Urticaria*

Faculty sponsor: Benetha Jackson, Angelina College

# Council on Undergraduate Research

---

The Council on Undergraduate Research, founded in 1978, is a national organization of individual and institutional members representing over 950 colleges and universities. The mission of CUR is to support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship.

CUR believes that faculty members enhance their teaching and contribution to society by remaining active in research and by involving students in these activities. CUR's leadership works with agencies and foundations to enhance research opportunities for faculty members and students. It also:

- Supports faculty development through expert-designed institutes and offers the option of customizable campuswide or departmental institutes.
- Publishes books and articles related to creating, managing and evaluating undergraduate research programs, and mentoring undergraduate researchers.
- Assists administrators and faculty members in improving and assessing the research environment at their institutions.
- Hosts annual undergraduate research conferences: one of which is on Capitol Hill and another that brings together over 3,000 students from across the nation.
- Provides information on the importance of undergraduate research to state legislatures, private foundations, government agencies and the U.S. Congress.

CUR's divisional structure includes arts and humanities, biology, chemistry, engineering, geosciences, health sciences, mathematics and computer science, physics and astronomy, psychology, social sciences, an at-large division that serves administrators and other disciplines, and a division for directors of undergraduate research programs.

# ***Finalist Poster Competition***

---

This is your chance to pick your favorite student poster. The winner of the Best Student Poster Award will be announced on mySFA and will hold this title for the coming year!

## **How to participate:**

1. Go to the Twilight Ballroom and view the posters.
2. Decide which student poster you enjoy most.
3. Put the SFA logo affixed below in the envelope located next to the poster.

After the conference, the logos will be counted and the winner announced.

Thank you for your participation!

# ***Special Thanks to:***

**Dr. Judy Abbott, Interim Provost and  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

**School of Honors**

**University Marketing Communications**

**Office of Research and Graduate Studies**

**Center for Student Research  
and Creative Discovery**

## **Undergraduate Research Conference Executive Committee**

**Dr. Leslie G. Cecil**

**Dr. Eric J. Jones**

**Dr. Michael Tkacik**

**[urc@sfasu.edu](mailto:urc@sfasu.edu) | (936) 468-2813**

**[sfasu.edu/urc](https://sfasu.edu/urc)**



Stephen F. Austin State University is  
an institutional member of the  
Council on Undergraduate Research  
— Learning Through Research.

Rev. 4/2/2025