Spring 2019 Undergraduate Research Conference
Outstanding Presentation Winners

First place winners in each session were awarded $250 and second place winners were awarded $150.

Podium Presentations

Science and Engineering Podium Presentations | Student Union 213

1st Place:
Presenter: Mary Blankenship, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Department of Economics, and Honors College
Presentation Title: Surface and interface properties of CdS/Cu(In,Ga)Se2 thin-film solar cells with varying Ga/(Ga+In) absorber ratios
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Clemens Heske, Professor of Materials Chemistry, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

2nd Place:
Presenter: Jeffrey Ash, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Presentation Title: Metal- and Chloride Reagent-Free Synthesis of Mixed Thiophosphates
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Jun Yong Kang, Assistant Professor of Organic Chemistry, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Liberal Arts Podium Presentations | Student Union 211

1st Place:
Presenter: Victoria Limon, Department of History and Honors College
Presentation Title: Ancient Serfdom: The Status of the Helots of Sparta
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Cian McMahon, Associate Professor, Department of History

2nd Place:
Presenter: Alexander Valle, Department of English, and Department of World Languages and Cultures
Presentation Title: The Apple of Clarice Lispector: An Investigation on Sexual Difference
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Jarret Keene, Assistant Professor in Residence, World Literature Coordinator, Department of English

Business, Health Sciences, and Urban Affairs Podium Presentations | Student Union 209

1st Place:
Presenter: Donna Gould, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Presentation Title: Nutrition Labels: Improving the Design to Enhance Nutrition Comprehension
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Samantha Coogan, Director, Didactic Program in Nutrition & Dietetics, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

2nd Place:
Presenter: Peter Grema, Department of Economics and Honors College
Presentation Title: Banking and Marijuana Policy
Faculty Research Mentor: Ms. Caitlin Saladino, Director of Strategic Development & Operations, Brookings Mountain West, Lincy Institute
Interdisciplinary Lightning Talk Presentations | Student Union 207

1st Place:
Presenter: **Louisa Heske**, School of Life Sciences and Honors College  
Presentation Title: Proliferation and Viability of Normal Breast Tissue Cells Infected with HPV-16 and HPV-18  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Karl Kingsley, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, School of Dental Medicine

2nd Place:
Presenter: **Maribel Estrada Calderon**, Department of History  
Presentation Title: A Landscape of Resistance: Rarámuri Resistance to Spanish Colonization in the Sierra Madre Occidental, 1607-1697  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. William Bauer, Director, American Indian & Indigenous Studies and Professor, Department of History

Poster Presentations & Exhibits

Business and Hospitality Poster Presentations | Student Union Ballroom

1st Place:
Presenter: **Amani Chaar**, Department of Economics and Honors College  
Presentation Title: The Effects of Renewable Portfolio Standards and The Deregulation of US Energy Markets on Electricity Prices  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Bradley Wimmer, Professor, Department of Economics, and Dr. Djeto Assane, Associate Professor, Department of Economics

2nd Place:
Presenter: **Jovana Kenic**, Department of Economics, **Yuenyu Li**, Department of Economics, **Noah Robotham**, Department of Economics, **Ashley Schober**, Department of Political Science, Department of Economics, and Honors College, and **Richard Solberg**, Department of Economics  
Presentation Title: The Motherhood Wage Penalty and the Persistence of the Wage Gap  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane, Associate Professor, Department of Economics

Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, and Urban Affairs Posters & Exhibits | Student Union Ballroom

1st Place:
Presenter: **Zully Mejia**, Department of Art and Honors College  
Presentation Title: Redefining Identity and Removing Stigma Through Representation in Painting  
Faculty Research Mentor: Ms. Alisha Kerlin, Executive Director, Marjorie Barrick Museum of Art

2nd Place:
Presenter: **Holly Haywood**, Department of Art  
Presentation Title: The Tipping Point  
Faculty Research Mentor: Mr. Dave Rowe, Assistant Professor, Department of Art
Health Sciences and Liberal Arts Poster Presentations  | Student Union Ballroom

1st Place:
Presenter: Eli Thompson, Department of Political Science, Wayne Boulton Jr., Department of Philosophy, and Carrera Slocumb, Department of Sociology
Presentation Title: #VEGASSTRONGER: Investigating Mental-Health Treatment Disparities for UNLV Students Following Exposure to Traumatic or Violent Events
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Miriam Melton-Villanueva, Assistant Professor, Department of History

2nd Place:
Presenter: Irwin Munoz, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Presentation Title: The Effects of Cerebellum Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation on Online and Offline Learning of a Complex Multi-joint Throwing Task
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Janet Dufek, Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

Liberal Arts and Sciences Poster Presentations  | Student Union Ballroom

1st Place:
Presenter: Vanni Jefferson Arcaina, Department of Psychology, Department of English, and Honors College, and Katelynn Mayfield, Department of Psychology and Honors College
Presentation Title: Gender Differences in Trauma Type and PTSD Symptomatology in Maltreated Youth
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Christopher Kearney, Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology

2nd Place:
Presenter: Joan Silva, Department of Psychology, and Deborah Duncan, Department of Psychology, and School of Life Sciences
Presentation Title: Inhibition vs. Decay: Evidence of Forgetting in Working Memory Depends on Test Type
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Colleen Parks, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology

Science and Engineering Poster Presentations  | Student Union Ballroom

1st Place:
Presenter: Alejandra Larranaga, School of Life Sciences
Presentation Title: Solving the mystery of the Las Vegas bearpoppy, Arctomecon californica
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Scott Abella, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences

2nd Place:
Presenter: Adriana Baker, School of Life Sciences
Presentation Title: Kinetics and Heterogeneity of ADI-PEG20 Resistance in Sarcoma
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Brian Van Tine, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Washington University of St. Louis