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SPRING 2019

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Student Union Second Floor
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 26, 2019
# Schedule of Events

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 AM - 9:00 AM</td>
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| 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM  | Opening Remarks<br>
|                    | Dr. Levent Atici, Executive Director of Undergraduate Research      |
|                    | Dr. Diane Chase, Executive Vice President and Provost                |
| 9:15 AM - 11:15 AM | Presentation Sessions<br>
|                    | Podium Talks: Rooms 209, 211, and 213                                |
|                    | Lightning Talks: Room 207                                           |
|                    | Posters & Exhibits: Ballroom A                                       |
| 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM| Lunch, Closing Remarks, and Awards<br>
|                    | Dr. Levent Atici, Executive Director of Undergraduate Research      |
|                    | Dr. Andrew Hanson, Honors College Dean                               |
|                    | Dr. Mary Croughan, Vice President for Research and Economic Development |
|                    | Hannah Patenaude, CSUN President Elect                               |
1 "Metal- and Chloride Reagent-Free Synthesis of Mixed Thiophosphates"
Jeffrey Ash, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jun Yong Kang

2 "MucA, an Inhibitor of Cell Envelope Stress Response, is Required for the Viability of Diverse Pseudomonas aeruginosa Isolates"
Daniela Rodriguez, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Boo Shan Tseng

3 "Microwave Optimization for Testing Solid Content in WasteWater Facilities"
Emily Gelbart, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gabriel Judkins

4 "Surface and Interface Properties of CdS/Cu(In,Ga)Se2 Thin-film Solar Cells with Varying Ga/(Ga+In) Absorber Ratios"
Mary Blankenship, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Clemens Heske

5 "A Robot to Test Control Strategies for Bipedal Walking"
Reiner Dizon, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Lee & Dr. Sarah Harris

6 "The Redesign of Electrophysiological Recording Devices"
Jessica MvIlvaine, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Hyman

7 "Cross-Cultural Training and Engineering: an Illustration Using Vietnamese Engineering Faculties' Responses to Nature of Engineering Instrument (Work-In-Progress)"
Amanda Vazquez, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erica Marti
Session B: Liberal Arts Podium Presentations, 
Student Union Room 211

1 "History? Can't We Just Google It?"
Brittany Biggs, Department of History & Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mark Padoongpatt

2 "Ancient Serfdom: The Status of the Helots of Sparta"
Victoria Limon, Department of History
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cian McMahon

3 "Pompeii of the West": Memorialization of Excavation of Ozette Village, Makah Nation"
Alexandra Shear, Department of History
Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Bauer

4 "But Look at Us Thriving: Undocumented Student’s Resilience and UndocuJoy"
Esmeralda Cruz Lopez, Interdisciplinary Degree Programs
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Anna Smedley & Dr. Anita Tijerina Revilla

5 "The Apple of Clarice Lispector: An Investigation on Sexual Difference"
Alexander Valle, Department of English
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jarret Keene
Session C: Business, Health Sciences, and Urban Affairs Podium Presentations, SU Room 209

1 "Perceptions of Surveillance Among Animal Rights Activists"
Lauren Sailer, Department of Criminal Justice
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emily Troshynski, and Cassandra Boyer

2 "Rhetorical Criticism of Human Trafficking"
Bailey Bergquist, Department of Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emma Bloomfield

3 "Finding Hope in a Harsh Reality: A Narrative Analysis of the Film No Country for Old Men"
Farwa Husain, Department of Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emma Bloomfield

4 "A Dramatistic Analysis of "Wasted! The Story of Food Waste"
Alyssa Kahn, Department of Communication Studies
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emma Bloomfield

5 "Nutrition Labels: Improving the Design to Enhance Nutrition Comprehension"
Donna Gould, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Samantha Coogan

6 "Banking and Marijuana Policy"
Peter Grema, Lee Business School
Faculty Mentor: Caitlin Saladino
Session D: Interdisciplinary Lightning Talk Presentations, Student Union Room 207

1 "Exome-Wide Analysis of C-Termini Mutated in Human Disorders"
Zachary Fitzhugh, Department of Economics & Department of Computer Science
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Martin Schiller

2 "Proliferation and Viability of Normal Breast Tissue Cells Infected with HPV-16 and HPV-18"
Louisa Heske, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karl Kingsley

3 "Children's Development of Musical Beat Perception and How it is Reflected by Steady State-evoked Potentials"
John Hatch, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erin E. Hannon

4 "A Landscape of Resistance: Rarámuri Resistance to Spanish Colonization in the Sierra Madre Occidental, 1607-1697"
Maribel Estrada Calderon, Department of History
Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Bauer

5 "Exploring the Influence of Hotel Technology Amenities on Booking Decisions: A Focus on Generation Z"
Jennifer Jaimes, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mehmet Erdem

6 "Building a Better Hospitality Robot"
Thuon Chen, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Robert Rippee & Dr. Mehmet Erdem
Session E: Business and Hospitality Poster Presentations, Student Union Ballroom

1 "Determinants of Home Value in the Summerlin Area"
Alex Gonzales, Department of Economics
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane

2 "How Effective is School Funding?"
Berenice Vazquez, Department of Economics
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane

3 "Elementary School's Academic Performances on housing prices in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area"
Alicia Zepeda, Kostandina Zenuni, Patricia Ramirez, Department of Economics & Rodrigo Vazquez, Department of Economics & English
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane

4 "The Effects of Renewable Portfolio Standards and the Deregulation of US Energy Markets on Electricity Prices"
Amani Chaar, Department of Economics
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Bradley Wimmer & Dr. Djeto Assane

5 "The Motherhood Wage Penalty and the Persistence of the Wage Gap"
Jovana Kenic, Yuenyu Li, Noah Robotham, Richard Solberg, Department of Economics & Ashley Schobert, Department of Political Science
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane

6 "Joining the ROTC at UNLV"
Sergio Peraza, Department of Economics
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Djeto Assane

7 "Gamers Who Gamble: Differentiating Characteristics of Betting on Esports and Other Gambling Participation"
Rolando Corley Melton, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brett Abarbanel
1 "Career Development Among Psychology Undergraduates"  
Kaelyn Griffin, Rahina Sheikh, Sarah Mekonnen & Cristina Arana, Department of Psychology  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Gloria Wong-Padoongpatt, Dr. Paul Nelson & Sarah Thoman

2 "An Examination of Comingled Recycling in the Las Vegas Valley"  
Megan Blas & Lauren Lee, School of Public Policy and Leadership  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helen Neill

3 "Refining the Determinants of Location Strategies for Human Rights INGOs"  
Jacob Cox, Department of Political Science  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steven Landis

4 "Microaggressions against Transgender People of Color in Cisgender Heterosexual and Cisgender Queer spaces"  
Frankie Perez, Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erika Abad

5 "Excavating Monterey in the Ancient Maya City of Caracol"  
Mayra Arzate, School of Public Policy and Leadership  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Arlen Chase

6 "Virtual Reality"  
Peter Hernandez, Department of Computer Science  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Si Jung Kim

7 "Virtual Reality and Photogrammetry: An Encounter with Buddhism in Chiang Mai, Thailand"  
Alina Lindquist, Department of Anthropology  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Karen Harry

8 "The Tipping Point"  
Holly Haywood, Department of Art  
Faculty Mentor: Prof. Dave Rowe

9 "Redefining Identity and Removing Stigma Through Representation in Painting"  
Zully Mejía, Department of Art  
Faculty Mentor: Alisha Kerlin
Session G: Health Sciences and Liberal Arts
Poster Presentations, Student Union Ballroom

1 "#VEGASSTRONGER: Investigating Mental-Health Treatment Disparities for UNLV Students Following Exposure to Traumatic or Violent Events"
Eli Thompson, Department of History, Wayne Boulton Jr., Department of Philosophy, Carrera Slocumb, Department of Sociology, Faculty Mentor: Dr. Miriam Melton-Villanueva

2 "Surveying College Students on Eco-Terrorism"
Itzel Rios, Department of Political Science
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emily Troshynski, and Cassandra Boyer

3 "Suicide Disparities Among School-aged Minority Children and Young Adults in the United States, 2008–2017"
Eddy Virgen, Niema Beckford, Eyubed Balcha & Derrick Lanham, School of Public Health
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sanae El Ibrahimi

4 "Suicide Trends and Disparities Among Older Adults in the United States, 2008–2017"
Eddy Virgen & Niema Beckford, School of Public Health
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sanae El Ibrahimi

5 "Forensic and Medical Analysis of a 4000 Year Old Individual with Achondroplastic Dwarfism from the Arabian Peninsula"
Marianna Galvin, Department of Anthropology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Debra Martin

6 "An Observational Study of Human–Canine Relationships"
Deisy Landeros, Department of Anthropology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Shelly Volsche

7 "HCG Diet Compared to Low Caloric Diet on Satiety Levels"
Emily Hollar, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Michelle Samuel

8 "The Effects of Physical Activity on Self-Esteem and Body Image in Teenage Girls: A Review of Physical Activity Programs and Curriculum"
Haley Lockley, Department of Teaching and Learning
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chia-Liang Dai

9 "The Effects of Cerebellum Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation on Online and Offline Learning of a Complex Multi-joint Throwing Task"
Irwin Munoz, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janet S. Dufek
1 "An Examination of Pubertal Timing Effects on Drive For Muscularity in Men"
Felipe Diaz, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristen Culbert

2 "Sex, Energy, Well-being and Low T: An Exploratory Story of U.S. Men’s Experiences on Prescription Testosterone"
Genghis Ganbold, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Peter Gray

3 "Research Proposal: An Examination of Circulating Testosterone and Weight-based Teasing in Adolescent Boys"
Alexandra Danlag, Department of Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kristen Culbert

4 "Sport-specific Problems and Mental Health in Athletes: Screening for Referral to Treatment"
Alexandra Danlag & Kaelyn Griffin, Department of Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Bradley Donohue

5 "Gender Differences in Trauma Type and PTSD Symptomatology in Maltreated Youth"
Vanni Jefferson Arcaina & Katelynn Mayfield, Department of Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christopher Kearney

6 "The Relation Between Infants’ Preference for Infant-directed Speech and Later Language Development"
Janelle M. Salcedo, Department of Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Erin E. Hannon

7 "Inhibition vs. Decay: Evidence of Forgetting in Working Memory Depends on Test Type"
Joan Silva & Deborah Duncan, Department of Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Colleen Parks

8 "The Effects of Baclofen After Induction of Inflammation in Cell Culture"
Shilla Marie Hernandez, School of Allied Health Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jefferson Kinney

9 "Exploring the Protective Potential of GABAB Receptor Agonist During Inflammation"
Nicholas Kolch, Department of Health Physics and Diagnostic Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jefferson Kinney
Session I: Science and Engineering Poster Presentations, Student Union Ballroom

1 "Kinetics and Heterogeneity of ADI-PEG20 Resistance in Sarcoma"
Adriana Baker, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brian Van Tine (Washington University in St. Louis)

2 "Evolution of the WRKY Transcription Factors Across Oryza"
Keeley Adams, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeffery Shen

3 "Characterization of a Putative Holin Gene from P. larvae Bacteriophage"
Hector Aviles, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christy Strong

4 "Sex Effects On Disease Severity In The Hamster Clostridioides [Clostridium] difficile Infection Model"
Dung M. Do, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ernesto Abel-Santos

5 "Solving the Mystery of the Las Vegas Bearpoppy, Arctomecon californica"
Alejandra Larranaga, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Abella

6 "Long-term Monitoring of Seed Banks, Fertile Islands, and Rare Gypsum Communities in Eastern Mojave Desert by Method of Extraction"
Naidelin Maldonado, School of Life Sciences
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Abella

7 "Calculating Stead-State Power and Critical Control Rod Position for a TRIGA Reactor using the Fission Matrix Method"
Tyler Topham, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Walters (Pennsylvania State University)

8 "Using Zero Valent Iron with and without a Carbon Source and Nutrients to Reduce Perchlorate, Chlorate, and Nitrate in Contaminated Groundwater"
Yesika Otano-Alonso, Arielle Palanca & Karlena Tyburski, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacimaria Batista

9 "Investigation of Perchlorate and Co-contaminant Reduction Using Zero Valent Iron"
Karlena Tyburski, Yesika Otano Alonso & Arielle Palanca, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jacimaria Batista
THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this event. Without your contributions, recognition of the efforts of undergraduate researchers would not have been possible.

Faculty Research Mentors
Volunteer Judges
Dr. Yen-Soon Kim and the TCA 490 Students
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