



# CAL STATE LA

OFFICE OF RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

## Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, & Creative Activities Awardee List for 2025

<b>First Overall Oral Presentation</b>
<b>Phi Kappa Phi</b>
<b><u>Samuel Groysman</u></b> B.S. Biochemistry <i>Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement</i> Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yixian Wang
<b>Second Overall Oral Presentation</b>
<b>Phi Kappa Phi</b>
<b><u>Isuru Rajapakshe</u></b> M.S. Electrical Engineering <i>Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder</i> Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won
<b>Third Overall Oral Presentation</b>
<b>Phi Kappa Phi</b>
<b><u>Hannah Calistri</u></b> M.A. Anthropology <i>Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence</i> Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

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**California State University, Los Angeles Delegates  
to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual CSU Student Research Competition at  
Cal Poly Humboldt on April 25-26, 2025**

**Behavioral and Social Sciences**

**Drusilla Szakto**

B.A. Psychology

*Examining Eyewitness Decision Making Under Real World Conditions Using the Field Simulation Paradigm*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mitchell Eisen

**Humanities I: Humanities and Communities**

**Isaac Collins**

Master of Social Work

*Black Americans Attitudes and Perceptions of Mental Health Services*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Margarita Villagrana

**Marjorie Hunt**

M.A. History

*The Wild and Unfree: Geographies of Nature and Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kittiya Lee

**Humanities II: Anthropology and Archeology**

**Hannah Calistri**

M.A. Anthropology

*Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

**Political Science**

**Arwa Hammad**

B.A. Philosophy, Option in Pre-Law, B.S. Political Science, Option in Pre-Law

*Stretching Democracy: Third Parties and the Necessity of Democratic Elasticity*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael McLendon

**Biological and Health Sciences**

**Yahan Lin**

B.S. Biochemistry

*Investigating the roles of TlyA and FtsZ in circadian control of cell division in cyanobacteria*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen

**Computer Science**

**Isuru Rajapakshe**

M.S. Electrical Engineering

*Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won

**Engineering**

**Alejandro Sanchez**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

*Improving the performance of lithium-ion batteries at high temperatures for space applications*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Bachman

### Physical Sciences

**Samuel Groysman**

B.S. Biochemistry

*Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement*

Faculty Mentor: Yixian Wang

**Evelyn Scott**

M.S. Physics

*Protostar Disk Dynamics of Oph IRS 63*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Terebey

The following students received an outstanding presentation award at the  
**Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities**  
*Oral Presentations*

### Behavioral and Social Sciences

**Mei Ku**

M.A. Psychology

*The Contributions of Rumination, Catastrophizing, and Depression in the Associations Between Adverse Childhood Events and Gastrointestinal Symptoms in a Predominantly Hispanic/Latino Sample*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yvette Szabo

**Sarena Eworonsky**

B.A. Psychology

*Exploring the Role of Juror Bias on Decision-Making in a Civil Case*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alma Olaguez

### Humanities I: Humanities and Communities

**Marjorie Hunt**

M.A. History

*The Wild and Unfree: Geographies of Nature and Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kittiya Lee

**Humberto Hernandez Mendez**

B.A. Sociology, Women's Gender & Sexualities Studies

*Tranifesting Community Transition: On the Binary Structures of ICE, Gender-Based Violence, and the Impacts on Undocumented Gender-Variant People of Color*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Molly Talcott

### Humanities II: Anthropology and Archeology

**Hannah Calistri**

M.A. Anthropology

*Preservation and Contamination: Identifying Pesticides on Ethnographic Woven Materials using Portable X-Ray Fluorescence*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amira Ainis

### Political Science

**Arwa Hammad**

B.A. Philosophy, Option in Pre-Law, B.S. Political Science, Option in Pre-Law  
*Stretching Democracy: Third Parties and the Necessity of Democratic Elasticity*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael McLendon

### Biological and Health Sciences

**Teegan Boyd**

M.S. Kinesiology  
*Neck Muscle Functional Characteristics in Individuals with Forward Head Posture*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Leila Rahnema

**Yahan Lin**

B.S. Biochemistry  
*Investigating the roles of TlyA and FtsZ in circadian control of cell division in cyanobacteria*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen

### Computer Science

**Isuru Rajapakshe**

M.S. Electrical Engineering  
*Spectral Changes in sEEG as a Biomarker for rTMS Efficacy in Major Depressive Disorder*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won

**Rajkin Chakrobarty**

B.S. Biochemistry  
*Post transcriptional modifications: thermodynamic insights on the enzymatic amination reaction of Uracil to Cytosine*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Olaseni Sode

### Engineering

**Andy Damas**

M.S. Mechanical Engineering  
*Circulation Patterns in Horizontal Rectangular Enclosures due to Humidity in Air*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Arturo Pacheco-Vega

**Alejandro Sanchez**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering  
*Improving the performance of lithium-ion batteries at high temperatures for space applications*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chris Bachman

### Physical Sciences

**Evelyn Scott**

M.S. Physics  
*Protostar Disk Dynamics of Oph IRS 63*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Terebey

**Samuel Groysman**

B.S. Biochemistry  
*Sensitive Imaging of Electroactive Species in Plasmonic Electrochemical Microscopy Enabled by Electrostatic Nanoconfinement*  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yixian Wang

The following students received an outstanding presentation award at the  
**Annual Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities**  
*Poster Presentations*

<b>Behavioral and Social Sciences</b>
<p><b>Angel Chen and Beth Santana</b>  M.S. Nutritional Science; B.S. Nutritional Science  <i>The Role of Food Pantries in Los Angeles in Promoting Fruits and Vegetables Consumption</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kathryn Amanda Hillstrom</p>
<p><b>Noemi Alanis</b>  B.A. Psychology  <i>Parental Perceptions of Math Language and Learning Skills in Educational YouTube Videos</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corinne Bower</p>
<p><b>C. Kenobi Donart, Zarife Agin, and Mei Ku</b>  M.S. Psychology; B.A. Psychology; M.A. Psychology  <i>Stressful life events and mental health: Emotion dysregulation accounts for depression, anxiety, and stress symptoms</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yvette Z. Szabo</p>
<p><b>Lisette G. Bailey and Evelyn Mojarro-Pedroza</b>  M.A. Psychology; B.A. Psychology  <i>Voting Trends Among Hispanic Americans: A Comparative Study of 2016 through 2022 Was “Latinos for Trump” a real change in voting behavior or media sensationalism?</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Heidi Riggio</p>
<b>Biological Sciences</b>
<p><b>Tshering Y. Bhutia</b>  B.A. Psychology  <i>Optimizing tissue clearing protocols to investigate three-dimensional circuits in rodent spinal cord following injury</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Selvan Joseph</p>
<p><b>Alfredo Gonzalez, Aidan Reyes, and Jaelyn Asamoah</b>  M.S. Chemistry; B.S. Biological Sciences; B.S. Biochemistry  <i>Investigating the Relationship Between Thermal Hysteresis and Ice Recrystallization Inhibition Activity in Hyperactive Insect Antifreeze Protein Mutants</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Xin Wen</p>
<p><b>Parker Saikley</b>  B.S. Microbiology  <i>Investigating the Role for Rbp2 in the regulation of the circadian clock in cyanobacteria</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Cohen</p>
<b>Education</b>
<p><b>Qiong Wu</b>  M.A. Child Development  <i>Examining Challenges of Chinese Immigrant Male Early Childhood Educators through Acculturation and Cultural Capitals</i>  Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yafen Lo</p>

## Engineering and Computer Science

### **William Pasillas, Derreck Soriano, and Isuru Rajapakshe**

B.S. Electrical Engineering

*Changes in neural network associations with RTMS for depression*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Deborah Won

### **Nathan Brieu**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

*Experimental simulation and optimization study of the hydrogen-rich gas production via a methanol steam reforming reactor*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Petr Vozka

### **Jordan Doose**

M.S. Computer Science

*Computer-Vision Based Landing Guidance for Autonomous Marine Exploration*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Salvador Rojas

## Physical and Mathematical Sciences

### **Damian Salas**

B.A. Geography

*All Burnt Up: Changes in California Wildfires and their Consequences on Air Quality*

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Jingjing Li and Dr. Alireza Farahmand

### **Tommy Taing**

B.S. Chemistry

*Utilization of Titanium and Indium-based Porphyrin Metal-Organic Frameworks for Fabrication of Photovoltaic Solar Cells*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yangyang Liu

### **Jonathan Davidson**

M.S. Mathematics

*Monochromatic Rectangles in Grids*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason O'Neill