

## OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF FLORIDA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

FRIDAY, MARCH 08, 2024

Hosted by

SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, LAKELAND, FL 33801, USA

Sections of the Florida Academy of Sciences may recognize student presenters at annual meetings of the Senior Academy for outstanding oral and poster presentations and for honorable mentions. In addition to sectional recognition, the Awards Committee may make Academy-wide student awards based on nominations from the chairs of 11 of its sections. Presentation awards granted to student presenters at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting are listed below.

### Sectional Awards

#### AGRICUTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* — Naileth Gesto, Indian River State College,

“AGR-01: Minimum inhibitory concentrations of antimicrobials for potential applications against citrus greening disease.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Brandi Yip, Indian River State

College, “AGR-P02: Annotation of Genes Involved in the Ecdysteroidogenic Pathway in *Diaphorina citri*.”

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL SCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Graduate* — Kelly McGhee, University of Central Florida,  
“ANT-01: Microscopic analysis of cut mark characteristics on bone from  
chopping/hacking tools.”

#### ATMOSPHERIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Graduate* —Tenzin Yeshi, Florida Institute of Technology,  
“AOS-01: Effects of UVC Dosage on Three Different Marine Coatings and its  
Efficacy in Representative Environments.”

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* —Shaunace Bowen, Bethune-Cookman  
University, “AOS-04: The decline in syngnathid populations within the Indian River  
Lagoon.”

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Graduate*— Andrew Pyryt, Florida Institute of  
Technology, “BIO-01: Response of Fish through Ontogeny in MPA and adjacent  
waters of the IRL.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Graduate* — Dani Hamilton, Florida Gulf Coast University,  
“BIO-P16: BMAA effect on adult zebrafish apoptosis in the brain.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Alexa Keeler, Saint Leo University,  
“BIO-P02: More Than Just A Passing Phage: TootsiePop.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Hannah Goodrich, Southeastern  
University, “BIO-P10: Characterization of bioactive extracts from *Scenedesmus*  
for health applications and biofuel potential.”

## ENGINEERING

*Outstanding Oral Presentation and Al Hall Memorial Award, Graduate* — Swarna Saha, Florida Institute of Technology, “ENG-05: Optimized Carbon Capture Using Deep Eutectic Solvent to Functionalize Loblolly Pine Derived Activated Hydrochar.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation and Dr. Elizabeth A. Hays Travel Award, Graduate* — Jonathan Carter, Florida Institute of Technology, “ENG-P03: Methodologies for quantifying drag reduction in air lubrication systems.”

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* — Robert Cheatham, Florida Institute of Technology, “ENG-06: Carbon Capture on Chemically Activated Biomass.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Aldridge Kalenga, Bethune-Cookman University, “ENG-P10: Driver behavior detection using a Deep Learning approach.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Graduate* — Alex Milgram, Florida Institute of Technology, “ENG-P02: Design and Development of a Robotic Platform at Scale for Implementing Artificial Intelligence and Computer Vision Algorithms in Autonomous Vehicles.”

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICAL SCIENCES

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Joven Jose, Southeastern University, “ENV-P02: Synthesis of a Biogenic Aldehyde, 3,4 Dihydroxyphenyl-acetaldehyde (DOPAL), a Toxic Dopamine Metabolite in vivo: Implications for Parkinson’s Disease Pathogenesis.”

## GEOSCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* — Josie Hoffman, University of Tampa,

“GEO-02: Florida hurricanes and the relationship between rapid intensification and sea surface temperature.”

#### RARE & ENDANGERED PLANTS & ANIMALS

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* — Kim Pham, South Florida State College,

“RES-01: GC-MS analysis of compounds present in the endangered plant *Ziziphus celata*.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Esmeralda Morales, South Florida State

College, “RES-P03: Differential expression of metabolites in genetic variants of the endangered plant *Ziziphus celata*.”

#### MEDICAL SCIENCES

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Graduate* — Michaela Foley, Florida Institute of Technology,

“MED-05: Regulation of HSF1 by SF3B1”

*Outstanding Oral Presentation, Undergraduate* — Fapianey Alexandre, University of Florida,

“MED-10: Metabolism and Mathematics: New Perspectives on Old Brains.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Colten Denby, South Florida State

College, “MED-P03: Evaluating the Role of the Melatonin in the Mitochondrion-mediated Apoptosis in Thyroid Cancer Cell (MDA-T41).”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Undergraduate* — Gregory Connelly, Saint Leo University,

“MED-P05: Assessing Cytotoxicity of Peptides as Therapeutic Approach toward Breast Cancer.”

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Graduate* — Rahul Kulkarni, Florida Institute of

Technology, “MED-P07: Small molecule HSR activation using *Caenorhabditis elegans* neurodegenerative disease models.”

#### SCIENCE TEACHING

*Outstanding Poster Presentation, Graduate* — Madison Stevens, Florida Gulf Coast

University, “TCH-01: Post-exam surveys and practice exams impact on an undergraduate Genetics course exam scores.”

Prepared by  
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FAS Awards Chair