Schedule of Events

Poster Exhibition
Friday, April 13, 2018
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 14, 2018
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Student and
Faculty Reception
Friday, April 13, 2018
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Introduction and Welcome

Caroline McGuire, Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

Presentation of the Mentorship Excellence Awards

Faculty Awards

Andrea Voyer, Assistant Professor, Sociology

Presented by Savannah-Nicole Villalba ’18 (CLAS)

Nicholas Eddy, Assistant Professor in Residence, Chemistry

Presented by Pranjali Ichalkaranje ’18 (CLAS)

Graduate Student Award

Laura Mickelsen, Ph.D. Candidate, Physiology and Neurobiology

Presented by Eric Beltrami ’19 (CLAS) and Jacob Naparstek ’18 (CLAS)

Closing Remarks

Jennifer Lease Butts, Assistant Vice Provost, Enrichment Programs and Director, Honors Program
About Frontiers in Undergraduate Research

The Frontiers Poster Exhibition is a multidisciplinary research forum and the largest showcase of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative projects at the University of Connecticut. Frontiers 2018 is the twenty-first annual Frontiers event sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). This year’s poster exhibition includes 285 students presenting posters for 252 research and creative projects.

The projects span the disciplines and include both independent research and work pursued in collaboration with other undergraduates as well as graduate student and faculty mentors. The presenters are among the top students at UConn and include Honors students, University Scholars, winners of OUR funding competitions, and nominees and winners of prestigious national scholarships. We hope you enjoy meeting our wonderful students and learning about their exciting work.

About the Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is a resource for students interested in enriching their undergraduate experience through participation in research, scholarship, and creative activity. OUR provides information and advising to assist students in identifying relevant opportunities, as well as several funding programs to support the students and their faculty mentors.

Many of the Frontiers presenters have received financial support for their projects from the OUR, which awarded over $500,000 in 2016-2017 to students for their research and creative work over the summer and during the academic year. These awards are funded by the Office of Undergraduate Research with generous support from the Deans of the schools and colleges, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of the Provost, and private donations from many, many alumni, parents, and other friends of UConn and undergraduate research.
Sequential Listing of Poster Presentations

This listing of projects includes the undergraduate student authors and their faculty mentors. Many projects also include the contributions and mentorship of dedicated graduate students and post-doctoral scholars. In most cases, research is grouped according to the student's major and/or project topic.

Friday presentations are listed on pages 3-22; Saturday presentations are listed on pages 23-41. An alphabetical listing of presenters begins on page 43.

FRIDAY PRESENTATIONS

HALLWAY

1. SyringeGuard – An Alternative to Safety Syringes
Gina DiGiacomo, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Christine Meehan, Adjunct Professor, Nursing
Advisor: Patrick Kumavor, Assistant Professor in Residence, Biomedical Engineering

2. Implementing Small Scale Vertical Axis Wind Turbines on UConn Campus
Amy Robinson, Electrical Engineering
Bailey Andrew, Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Ali Bazzi, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

3. A Healthy Food Inventory of Waterbury, CT
Savannah-Nicole Villalba, Sociology and Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Andrea Voyer, Assistant Professor, Sociology

4. Peer Tutoring and Translation: Mentoring for Equitable Education
Kathrine Grant, English and Secondary English Education
Priscilla Grillakis, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Isabella Horan, Elementary Education
Madeleine Rusk, Elementary Education
Advisor: Ronald Beghetto, Professor, Educational Psychology
Advisor: Michele Back, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
Advisor: Eliana Rojas, Associate Professor in Residence, Curriculum and Instruction
Advisor: Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
5. The Effects of Road Salt Pollution on Soils and Tree Health
Katherine Bell, Environmental Science and Molecular and Cell Biology
Kelsey Witik, Environmental Science
Advisor: Ashley Helton, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment
Advisor: John Volin, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs and Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

NORTH READING ROOM

6. Foxhead Manor: A Whimsical and Paranormal Journey through Gilded Age New England
Emily Regan, Art – Illustration
Advisor: John O'Donnell, Assistant Professor, Art and Art History

7. Michel Debré and the Children of the Creuse
Stone Li, History and French
Advisor: Sylvia Schafer, Associate Professor, History

8. The Fallen Woman and the White Slave: Representations of the Prostitute in American Fiction and Nonfiction, 1870-1917
Helen Stec, History and English
Advisor: Peter Baldwin, Professor, History
Advisor: Wayne Franklin, Professor, English
Advisor: Micki McElyea, Associate Professor, History and Director, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

9. The Western Madwoman: A Feminist History and Economic Study in Novel Form
Rebecca Hill, English and Economics
Advisor: Ellen Litman, Associate Professor, English
Advisor: Delia Furtado, Associate Professor, Economics
Advisor: Veronica Makowsky, Professor, English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

10. Daughters of First Generation Immigrants: Sexual and Reproductive Health Screening Behaviors and the Role of Mother-Daughter Communication
Laurel P. Gibson, Communication and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Amanda Denes, Associate Professor, Communication
11. Flusser 2.0: Remediating Ideas, Reimagining Texts
Katherine Riedling, Computer Science and Engineering and German
Advisor: Anke Finger, Professor, Literature, Cultures and Languages and Digital Media and Design

12. A Comparison of Approaches: Promoting Empathic Attitudes in Family and Peer Scenarios of Intergroup Exclusion
Monica Vise, Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Alaina Brenick, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

13. The Effects of Feelings of Home and Loneliness on Housing Stability Following Transition from an Institutional Setting to a Community Setting
Alexandra Grimaldi, Allied Health Sciences and English
Advisor: Julie Robison, Professor, Center on Aging, UConn Health

14. Emotion Regulation in Early Childhood: The Impact of Mothers’ Socialization and Gender
Erica Magrath, Human Development and Family Studies and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Beth Russell, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

15. Sexting Victimization: A Comparison of Victimization Justifications Across Gender and Sexuality
Sarah Van Antwerp, Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Alaina Brenick, Assistant Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

16. The Association Between Co-morbidities and Diet and Exercise Among African American Breast Cancer Survivors
Caira Ward, Human Development and Family Studies and Africana Studies
Advisor: Edna Brown, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
17. **Influence of Differentiation in Family of Origin on Conflict and Communication Processes of Young Adult Couples as Moderated by Current Stress Level: A Dyadic Analysis**
Casey Cunningham, Psychological Sciences and Human Development and Family Studies
Rachel Ho, Human Development and Family Studies
Jordyn Isabelle, Psychological Sciences and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Shannon Weaver, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

18. **Cracking the Code: A Method for Designing and Implementing a Writing Center Honor Code**
Daniel Johnson, English and Political Science
Joseph Greenwald, Marketing
Kaylee Thurlow, Secondary English Education and English
Advisor: Tom Deans, Professor, English and Director, University Writing Center

19. **Assessing Our Practice: A Writing Center Fellow-To-Fellow Support System**
Kharl Reynado, Economics and Human Rights
Odia Kane, Cognitive Science and Political Science
Advisor: Tom Deans, Professor, English and Director, University Writing Center

20. **Breaking Out From Tradition: Redesign of Large Physiology Lecture Increases Engagement, Inclusion, and Student Outcomes**
Jordyn Dickey, Biological Sciences
Advisor: John Redden, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physiology and Neurobiology

Liam Williams, Political Science and English
Advisor: Kimberly Bergendahl, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science

22. **Accountability in Government?: Assessing Ethics in Connecticut Municipalities**
Samuel Rostow, Political Science
Advisor: Kimberly Bergendahl, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science
23. **So You Think You Can Marry? An Analysis of Factors that Influence Legal Age to Marry Laws in State Legislatures**
Lauren Graham, Political Science
Advisor: Kimberly Bergendahl, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science

24. **The Syrian Chess Game: USA, Russian, Saudi Arabian and Iranian Intervention in the Syrian Civil War**
Lorenzo Dahdal, Political Science
Advisor: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Alan R. Bennett Honors Professor and POLS Honors Director, Political Science

25. **A Smudge on the White Collar: Media Effects on Perception of Financially-Motivated, Non-Violent Crimes**
Alexis Summers, Political Science
Advisor: Virginia Hettinger, Associate Professor, Political Science

26. **A Study in Contrasts**
Steven Della-Giustina, Political Science
Advisor: Eleanor Daugherty, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students
Advisor: Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Alan R. Bennett Honors Professor and POLS Honors Director, Political Science

27. **In A House Built By Slaves: Manifestations of White Womanhood in American First Ladies**
Megan Handau, Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Advisor: Evelyn Simien, Professor, Political Science

28. **The Path to Dispossession: Community Relations and Elitism in City of New London**
Kevin Fitzgerald, Political Science and Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Ronald Schurin, Associate Professor in Residence, Political Science

29. **Veiled Truths: Islamophobia, the Burkini Scandal, and the Appropriation of 'Women's Rights' in France**
Alexander Holmgren, Political Science and French
Advisor: Zehra Arat, Professor, Political Science

30. **Effects of Structured Phonetic Variation on Voice Recognition**
Divya Ganugapati, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Rachel Theodore, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
31. The Effects of Middle Eastern Involvement on Western States’ Susceptibility to Homegrown Islamist Terrorism
Morgan Boudreau, Individualized Major: Islamic and Arabic Studies
Advisor: Zehra Arat, Professor, Political Science

32. Speak Softly and Carry A Big Satellite: The Changing Nature of American Foreign Interventions in the Information Age
Venkatram Gopal, Political Science and Economics
Advisor: Kristin Kelly, Associate Professor, Political Science

33. Power, Privilege and Politics: Income Inequality’s Effect on Voter Turnout in U.S. Presidential Elections
Nicholas Fuller, Political Science
Advisor: Beth Ginsberg, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science

34. Stop! Don't Go "Green": Why Increased Concern Over Climate Change Hasn't Led to Successful Activism in the U.S.
Kayla Ahmed, Political Science and Human Rights
Advisor: Oksan Bayulgen, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Political Science

35. The Crowd Counting Consortium: Analyzing Protests in Post-Trump America
Fizza Alam, Political Science and Economics
Advisor: Jeremy Pressman, Associate Professor and Co-Director of Crowd Counting Consortium, Political Science

36. Not Just Theory: Anarchism as a Practical Path to Native American Political and Cultural Sovereignty
Hannah Einsiedel, Political Science and Anthropology
Advisor: Jane Gordon, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Political Science

37. Pollution, Resistance, and Representation in Latin American Cities
Emily Steck, Political Science and Human Rights
Advisor: Veronica Herrera, Associate Professor, Political Science

38. Eccentric Exercise to Promote Immediate Beneficial Adaptations to Muscle
Kyle Kalotai, Chemistry
Advisor: Lindsey Lepley, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology
39. Structural Variations in Circulating Lipopolysaccharide may Increase Severity of Exercise-Induced Heat Illness
Skylar Wright, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Elaine Lee, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

40. Legislators' Perceptions and Knowledge of the Athletic Training Profession
Sararat Tosakoon, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Rebecca Stearns, Assistant Professor in Residence, Kinesiology

41. Past the Tap: Water News in Connecticut
Savannah Blantz, Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Bandana Purkayastha, Professor, Sociology

42. Auditory Brainstem Responses to Self-Generated Sounds
Liz Gernert, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Erika Skoe, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

43. Neural Determinants of Phonetic Category Structure in Children
Emma Hungaski, Cognitive Science and Speech Language and Hearing Sciences
Advisor: Rachel Theodore, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

44. Context Counts: The Role of Frontal Brain Areas in Bilinguals’ Speech Perception between Different Language Contexts
Noelle Wig, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Psychological Sciences
Alondra Marmolejos, Speech, Language, and Hearing Science and Psychological Sciences
Katherine Sabo, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Advisor: Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

45. Setting the Boundaries: How Native Language Impacts the Plasticity of Phonemic Perception
Kaleigh Constantine, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Christine Cammisa, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Spanish
Kristen Fagan, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Advisor: Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
46. On a Native Note: Brain Responses to Speech Sounds in Different Phonetic Contexts
Sarah Polcaro, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Tayla Duntz, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Allison Tozzi, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

47. The Relationship Between the Language Difficulty of Driving Manuals and Failure Rates on the Learner’s Permit Knowledge Test
Kaitlyn Flint, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Advisor: Tammie Spaulding, Associate Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

48. A Battle on Opiates: The NICU Nurse's Perspective on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Courtney Lopiano, Nursing
Advisor: Xiaomei Cong, Associate Professor, Nursing

49. Societal Influences On Breastfeeding
Tiffany Chanla, Allied Health Sciences
Advisor: Ruth Lucas, Assistant Professor, Nursing

50. The Effect of timp-1 on Inflammatory Signaling in a Model of Cutaneous Inflammatory Pain
Nathan Kozlowski, Nursing
Advisor: Kyle Baumbauer, Assistant Professor, Nursing

51. Drug Metabolism with the Phenobarbital Induced Cytochrome P450 Gene Family
Avish Patel, Physiology and Neurobiology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Xiaobo Zhong, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

52. The Effect of Critical Polymer Characteristics on In Vitro Performance of Parenteral PLGA Microspheres
Haris Qureshi, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Diane Burgess, Distinguished Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

53. The Benefits and Limitations of an Amine Column LC Purification System
Stephanie Gomez, Medical Laboratory Sciences
Advisor: Dennis Godek, President, MediSynergics LLC
54. Analysis of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Avian Blood Spots by Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography Utilizing Simple Liquid Extraction and Phospholipid Solid-Phase Extraction Preparation
Benjamin Reale, Chemistry
Andre Jang, Biological Sciences
Sreya Julakanti, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Anthony Provatas, Research Scientist, Center for Environmental Science and Engineering

55. Trifluoromethylation of Indoles using Photocatalysis
Madeline Williams, Structural Biology and Biophysics
Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Chemistry

56. Illuminating the Path to the Photocatalytic Oxidation of α-CF3 alcohols
Joshua Paolillo, Chemistry
Advisor: Nicholas Leadbeater, Associate Professor, Chemistry

57. Multicomponent Flexible Film of Organometallic Polymers with Polyimide as High k and Low Loss Dielectric
Caroline Anastasia, Chemistry
Advisor: Gregory Sotzing, Professor, Chemistry

58. Assessing the Anti-Proliferative Activity of Alpha-Substituted [13]-Macro-Dilactones
Ryan McLean, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Mark Peczuh, Associate Professor, Chemistry

59. Synthesis of Site-Specific Oligonucleotides Containing 2'-deoxyadenosine Adduct Formed by 6-nitrochrysene and their Biological Studies
Margaux Verlaque-Amara, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Ashis Basu, Professor, Chemistry

60. Synthesis and Binding Strengths of Lumazine-derived Carbon Nanotube Surfactants
Adam Reinhold, Chemistry
Advisor: Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos, Professor, Chemistry

61. Enhancing the Oxidizing Power of an Environmentally Benign Oxoammonium Salt by Electronic Modification of a Remote Group
Zachary Stempel, Chemistry
Sadie Kiendzior, Chemistry
Advisor: William Bailey, Professor, Chemistry
62. Evaluating The Effect Of Missing Data On Proportions In The Non-Inferior Clinical Trial
Tanner Brooks, Mathematics/Statistics
Advisor: Ofer Harel, Professor, Statistics

63. Information Theory for Conditioned Markov Chains
Sailesh Simhadri, Computer Science and Engineering
Advisor: Iddo Ben-Ari, Associate Professor, Mathematics

64. Black Scholes using the Central Limit Theorem
Anthony Sisti, Mathematics/Statistics
Rajeshwari Majumdar, Mathematics/Statistics and Political Science
Advisor: Maria Gordina, Professor, Mathematics

65. Applications of Multiplicative LLN and CLT for Random Matrices
Rajeshwari Majumdar, Mathematics/Statistics and Political Science
Anthony Sisti, Mathematics/Statistics
Advisor: Maria Gordina, Professor, Mathematics

Julian Yuliawan, Individualized Major: Music Entrepreneurship
Advisor: Jeffrey Ogbar, Professor, History
Advisor: Peter Diplock, Assistant Vice Provost for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Adjunct Faculty, Management

67. Track-and-Field Guide for Visually Impaired Athletes
Niccolò Meniconi, Engineering Physics and Music
Advisor: John Chandy, Professor and Associate Department Head, Electrical and Computer Engineering

68. Development of UCONN Health Heart Failure Mobile Application (UHFMA)
Eun Cho, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Minjung Kim, Assistant Professor, Calhoun Cardiology Center, UConn Health

69. Comparative Genomics of the Juglandaceae
Alexander Trouern-Trend, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
70. Designing a Genotyping Array for Genomic Selection in Loblolly Pine
Madison Caballero, Molecular and Cell Biology
Olivia Maher, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

71. Collecting Data for Association Genetics: Tripal Plant PopGen Submit Pipeline
Peter Richter, Computer Science and Engineering
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

72. Periodical Cicadas: Investigating the Monophyly of Brood V
Diane Hassanieh, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Chris Simon, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

73. Particle Acceleration Simulation
Sam Markelon, Computer Science
Advisor: Kyungseon Joo, Professor, Physics

74. Real Nanoparticles Have Curves: Exploring the Polar Phase Topology of Superellipsoidal Nanoinclusions
Hope Whitelock, Physics
Advisor: Serge Nakhmanson, Associate Professor, Materials Science and Engineering

75. ssDNA and Bicellar Nanodisc Complexes: A Template for siRNA Delivery Systems
Sricharan Kadimi, Chemical Engineering
Advisor: Mu-Ping Nieh, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

76. Production and Utilization of Biochar from Slow Pyrolysis of UConn Dining Hall Food Waste
Katherine Saltzgiver, Chemical Engineering
Advisor: Ioulia Valla, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

77. Resilience of Interdependent Infrastructure Systems
Stephen Hutchingson, Civil Engineering
Advisor: Jin Zhu, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering
HALLWAY

78. Enhancing Breeding Efforts through Fruit Quality Analysis of World's Largest Aronia Collection
Peter Apicella, Horticulture
Jacob Griffith Gardner, Horticulture
Advisor: Mark Brand, Professor, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

79. EXIT: A Short Film
Matthew Bilmes, Digital Media and Design
Advisor: Timothy Miller, Visiting Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Design

80. The Khmer: A Solo Art Exhibition
James Keth, Art – Painting and Biological Sciences
Advisor: Cora Lynn Deibler, Professor and Acting Department Head, Art and Art History

81. WickAway: An Automatic Candle Extinguisher / Decorative Candle Holder
Trevor Svec, Computer Engineering
Philip Gitman, Chemical Engineering
Advisor: John Ayers, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Advisor: Luyi Sun, Associate Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Institute of Materials Science

82. Low-Profile Assistive Arm Exoskeleton
Ryan Gadea, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Kazunori Hoshino, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

SOUTH READING ROOM

83. Connecting Science to the Digital Arts Through Scientific Animations
Mary Accurso, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Mary Bruno, Assistant Professor in Residence, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Anna Lindemann, Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Design

84. Reconstitution of GABAergic Postsynapses in Host Cells
Karthik Kanamalla, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Angel de Blas, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology
85. Risk Stratification System for Use in Epilepsy Monitoring Units and Correlation with Adverse Events
Benjamin Redenti, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Jennifer Madan-Cohen, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Neurology, UConn School of Medicine

86. Investigating Behavioral and Genetic Effects of Beta-Hydroxybutyrate on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy in Drosophila melanogaster
Derek Lee, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Geoffrey Tanner, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physiology and Neurobiology

87. Localization of Olfactory-Related Cytochrome p450 Genes in the Drosophila melanogaster Olfactory Sensilla
Rhea Sindvani, Physiology and Neurobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Karen Menuz, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

88. Role of Cyp6w1 in Odor Degradation and Olfactory Signaling
Aleena Raajpoot, Physiology and Neurobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Karen Menuz, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

89. SysTematic REsearch on Shootings (STRES): Using Traditional and Exploratory Methods to Identify Predictors of Firearm Suicide and Gun Violence Across the Nation
Michaela Matos, Mathematics
Joshua Lovett-Graff, Chemical Engineering and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Oshin Mathew, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Blair Johnson, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kun Chen, Assistant Professor, Statistics

90. Processing “Thunder” is More Difficult than “Rainbow” While Performing an Auditory Task
Jonathan Serino, Biological Sciences
Roisin Healy, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Eiling Yee, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

91. Longitudinal Outcome of Attention Modification Training for Social Anxiety: The Impact of Dosage on One-Week and One-Month Follow Up
Morgan Livingston, Psychological Sciences
Adam Mealy, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kimberli Treadwell, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences
92. Home Environment and Its Effects on Cognitive Dynamics of Learning and Academic Achievement
Haruki Cubeta, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Adam Sheya, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

93. A Multi-Scale Model of Iron Biochemistry in the Mouse
Arlie Koziol, Pathobiology
Advisor: Pedro Mendes, Professor, Center for Quantitate Medicine, UConn Health

94. Observational Learning in Rats
Aditi Agrawal, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor and Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Psychological Sciences

95. Observational Learning in a Food Foraging Task
Thomas Shao, Physiology and Neurobiology
Danni Dong, Psychological Sciences
Nathalia Hernandez, Molecular and Cell Biology and Spanish
Karen Mathew, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor and Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Psychological Sciences

96. Influence of the Social Environment on Rats Exploring a Novel Open Field
Thomas Pietruszewski, Psychological Sciences
Nathalia Hernandez, Molecular and Cell Biology and Spanish
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor and Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Psychological Sciences

97. Loss of p53 Function Increases Severity of Brain Tumors Induced by FUS1 in a Mouse Model of Supratentorial Ependymoma
Ericka Randazzo, Physiology and Neurobiology and Pathobiology
Advisor: Joseph Loturco, Professor and Department Head, Physiology and Neurobiology

98. Effects of the Serotonin Transport Inhibitor Fluoxetine on Effort-Related Decision Making in Male and Female Rats
Erin Hurley, Cognitive Science
Advisor: John Salamone, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences
99. Selection of Voluntary Physical Activity in a Rat Model of Binge-Eating Disorder
Bryanna Ye, Psychological Sciences
Molly Flynn, Psychological Sciences and Biological Sciences
Advisor: John Salamone, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

100. The Novel Dopamine Uptake Inhibitor CE-123 Reverses the Effort-Related Effects of the Dopamine Depleting Agent Tetrabenazine
Rebecca Schwartz, Biological Sciences and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: John Salamone, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

101. Effect of Ketamine on Effort Related Operant Tasks: Deconstructing the Pathology of Motivation Disorders
Seamus Rafferty, Physiology and Neurobiology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: John Salamone, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

102. Pyruvate Kinase Isoform M2 Influences Autophagy and Related Processes in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cells
Matthew Lin, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Li Wang, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

103. Understanding the Role of Lateral Hypothalamic GABAergic Neurons in Generating Complex Behavioral States Using In Vivo Chemogenetic Activation
Eric Beltrami, Physiology and Neurobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Alexander Jackson, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

104. Neuroanatomical Characterization of Lateral Hypothalamic GABAergic Neurons and their Projections in the Mouse Brain
James Costanzo, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Alexander Jackson, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

105. Neuroanatomical Characterization of Lateral Hypothalamic Somatostatin Neurons and their Projections in the Mouse Brain
Jacob Naparstek, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Alexander Jackson, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

106. Neuropathology of Hypoxic Ischemia in P6 rats: Therapeutic Effects of Treatment with Epo
Emma Mills, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: R. Holly Fitch, Professor, Psychological Sciences
107. Behavioral Assessment of Ush2a KO Mice
Alexzandrea Buscarello, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: R. Holly Fitch, Professor, Psychological Sciences

108. Maternal Immune Activation (MIA) in Mice: A Study to Phenotype ASD-Related Communication Behaviors and Analyze Maternal Health Outcomes in the US
Komalpreet Gulati, Individualized Major: Cognitive Neuroscience and Human Rights
Advisor: R. Holly Fitch, Professor, Psychological Sciences

109. The USH2A Gene: An Analysis of Ultrasonic Vocalizations in a Mouse Model of Usher Syndrome Type 2
Kiana Akhundzadeh, Individualized Major: Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience
Advisor: R. Holly Fitch, Professor, Psychological Sciences

110. The Role of MicroRNA 181c-5p in Post-Stroke Social Isolation
Maria Antony, Molecular and Cell Biology and Allied Health Sciences
Advisor: Rajkumar Verma, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, UConn Health

111. Analysis of Trypanosoma brucei PAP1 Intron
Zachary O'Connor, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Arthur Gunzl, Professor, Genetic and Genomic Sciences, UConn Health

112. Identifying a pH Sensing Protein Associated with V-ATPase
Angelique Gilbert, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Vishwanatha Rao, Assistant Professor in Residence, Neuroscience, UConn Health

113. Actin Nucleation Factors that Control Autophagy are Important for Zebrafish Organ Development
Alyssa Mathiowetz, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Kenneth Campellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: David Daggett, Assistant Professor in Residence, Molecular and Cell Biology

114. Single-Cell Characterization of Bipotent Neuromesodermal Progenitor Cells and their Niche in the Developing Mouse Embryo
Sara Islam, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Craig Nelson, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
115. C1ql1 Gene in the Cochlea Linked to Hearing Sensitivity
Rohit Makol, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: David Martinelli, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, UConn Health
Advisor: Duck Kim, Professor Emeritus, Neuroscience, UConn Health

116. Bacteria as an Alternative Food Source for Termite Gut Protists
Courtney Wallace, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Daniel Gage, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

117. Signaling Pathways of Metallothionein Induced Chemotaxis
Jennifer Messina, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Michael Lynes, Professor and Department Head, Molecular and Cell Biology

118. Gut Microbiome Influence on Chronic Infection Response in Drosophila melanogaster
Alexa Friedman, Individualized Major: Human Health Sciences
Advisor: Nichole Broderick, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

119. The Central Domain of WHIMP Can Direct Localization to the Cell Cortex
Ganna Brych, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Kenneth Campellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

120. Identifying WHAMM Residues Critical to Microtubule, Golgi, and Autophagosome Localization
Alyssa Coulter, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Kenneth Campellone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

121. Comparative Genomics of Two Bacterial Isolates from the Female Hawaiian Bobtail Squid Reproductive Symbiosis
Jaydeen Sewell, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Spencer Nyholm, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

122. Gene Flow in Endomicrobium sp., an Enteric Protist Endosymbiont in Eastern Subterranean Termites (Reticulitermes flavipes)
Shane Hussey, Molecular and Cell Biology and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Advisor: Daniel Gage, Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
123. What Makes a Mutant? Parametrization of RNA Interference in *Oncopeltus fasciatus*
Adam Chiu, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Elizabeth Jockusch, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

124. Comparative Transcriptome Analysis Reveals New Diversity in Frog Skin Defense Mechanisms
Megan Civitello, Biological Sciences
Advisor: John Malone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

125. Electrical Stimulation Mediated Mesenchymal Stem Cell Differentiation for Nerve Regeneration
Joshua Moskow, Biomedical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering
Advisor: Sangamesh Kumbar, Associate Professor, Orthopedic Surgery, UConn Health

126. Bioengineered Nanofibrous Scaffolds Loaded With Resveratrol Preserve Cardiac Function Following Myocardial Infarction
Mitali Banerjee, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Nilanjana Maulik, Professor, Surgery, UConn Health

127. No Difficulty with Activities Associated with Anterior Knee Pain in Autograft and Allograft Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction
Brenda Milla, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Stephanie Petterson, MPT, PhD, Director of Research, The Orthopaedic Foundation
Advisor: Kevin D. Plancher, MD, MPH, Clinical Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

128. Analyzing the Role of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Signaling in the Repair of Osteoarthritic Cartilage
Bridget Oei, Environmental Science
Advisor: Caroline Dealy, Associate Professor, Reconstructive Sciences, Orthopaedic Surgery, Center for Regenerative Medicine and Skeletal Development, UConn Health

129. Deferoxamine-Conjugated Polymer for Injectable Hydrogels for Regenerative Engineering
Paige Holden, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Lakshmi Nair, Associate Professor, Orthopedic Surgery, UConn Health
130. An Economical & Ergonomic Hydrocephalus Software System
Garrett Soler, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Kazunori Hoshino, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

131. Development of Flexible, Waterproof Electrodes using Screen Printed Conductive Fabric
Caitlin Eaton-Robb, Biomedical Engineering and Spanish
Advisor: Ki Chon, Professor and Department Head, Biomedical Engineering

132. Agarose Bead Implantation of PEDF to Treat Growth Plate Injury in Mice
Natasha Patel, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Liisa Kuhn, Associate Professor and Associate Department Head, Biomedical Engineering, UConn Health

133. Temporal Changes in Muscle Development in the Chicken Embryo as Influenced by Probiotic Supplementation
Maya Schlesinger, Animal Science
Advisor: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

134. Investigating the Effects of High Maternal Milk Production During Gestation on Circulating Concentrations of Insulin and Glucose in Holstein Calves
Alexandra Cabra, Animal Science
Veronica Pleasant, Animal Science and Pathobiology
Randi Szabo, Animal Science
Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Associate Professor, Animal Science

135. The Effects of Maternal Milk Production during Gestation on Offspring Immunity in Holstein Calves
Veronica Pleasant, Animal Science and Pathobiology
Alexandra Cabra, Animal Science
Randi Szabo, Animal Science
Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Associate Professor, Animal Science

136. Effects of Maternal Milk Production on Calf Growth and Blood Biochemistry
Randi Szabo, Animal Science
Alexandra Cabra, Animal Science
Veronica Pleasant, Animal Science and Pathobiology
Advisor: Kristen Govoni, Associate Professor, Animal Science
137. Effects of Plant Traits and Water Quality on Carbon Fluxes in Freshwater Wetlands
Mary Donato, Natural Resources and the Environment
Advisor: Beth Lawrence, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

138. Nontidal Encystment and Excystment Factors on a Tide Pool Ciliate
Rachel Cole, Marine Sciences
Advisor: George McManus, Professor, Marine Sciences

139. Investigating Dissolved Gas Concentrations and Alkalinity in a Long Island Sound Time Series
Jessica Hinckley, Marine Sciences
Advisor: Penny Vlahos, Associate Professor, Marine Sciences

140. Human-Black Bear Conflicts in Northwestern Connecticut
Cynthia Garcia, Environmental Studies and Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Anita Morzillo, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

141. Growing Gourmet Mushrooms with Brewers Grain, Coffee and Sawdust
Cameron Collins, Sustainable Plant and Soil Systems and Individualized Major: Global Perspectives in Sustainable Agroecology
Advisor: Gerald Berkowitz, Professor, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

142. Microbial Succession of a Newly Developed Aquaponics System
Tanzin Begam, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Kendra Maas, Facility Scientist, Microbial Analysis, Resources, and Services (MARS)
SATURDAY PRESENTATIONS

HALLWAY

1. SyringeGuard – An Alternative to Safety Syringes
Gina DiGiacomo, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Christine Meehan, Adjunct Professor, Nursing
Advisor: Patrick Kumavor, Assistant Professor in Residence, Biomedical Engineering

2. Implementing Small Scale Vertical Axis Wind Turbines on UConn Campus
Amy Robinson, Electrical Engineering
Bailey Andrew, Electrical Engineering
Advisor: Ali Bazzi, Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

3. A Healthy Food Inventory of Waterbury, CT
Savannah-Nicole Villalba, Sociology and Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Andrea Voyer, Assistant Professor, Sociology

4. Peer Tutoring and Translation: Mentoring for Equitable Education
Katharine Grant, English and Secondary English Education
Priscilla Grillakis, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Isabella Horan, Elementary Education
Madeleine Rusk, Elementary Education
Advisor: Ronald Beghetto, Professor, Educational Psychology
Advisor: Michele Back, Assistant Professor, Curriculum and Instruction
Advisor: Eliana Rojas, Associate Professor in Residence, Curriculum and Instruction
Advisor: Adrian Garcia-Sierra, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

5. The Effects of Road Salt Pollution on Soils and Tree Health
Katherine Bell, Environmental Science and Molecular and Cell Biology
Kelsey Witik, Environmental Science
Advisor: Ashley Helton, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment
Advisor: John Volin, Vice Provost, Academic Affairs and Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment
6. Foxhead Manor: A Whimsical and Paranormal Journey through Gilded Age New England
Emily Regan, Art – Illustration
Advisor: John O'Donnell, Assistant Professor, Art and Art History

7. CHU
Yanlin Hu, Art – Sculpture/Ceramics
Monica Bock, Associate Professor, Art and Art History

8. Immigration Through the Eyes of Hawaiian Buddhism
Kiana Cao, Art – Graphic Design
Advisor: Cathy Schlund-Vials, Professor, English and Director, Asian and Asian American Studies Institute
Advisor: Angela Rola, Director, Asian American Cultural Center

9. Underrepresentation of Minorities in Gifted/Talented Programs: A Policy Analysis in Three States
Yassine Sahbani, Economics
Advisor: D. Betsy McCoach, Professor, Educational Psychology

10. Exploring Problems and Problem Resolutions in Multicultural Children’s Literature
Anna McCormick, Elementary Education and English
Advisor: Jean Marsden, Professor, English
Advisor: Catherine Little, Professor, Educational Psychology

11. An Analysis of Education Apps
Abigail Plouffe, Elementary Education
Advisor: Catherine Little, Professor, Educational Psychology

12. Project Opening Doors: Evaluation of Cash Incentives on AP Enrollment and Passing Rates in Connecticut High Schools
Jacqueline Ose, Secondary Biology Education and Biological Sciences
Advisor: Morgaen Donaldson, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

13. High School Seniors’ Perceptions of the Accessibility and Helpfulness of Supports in their College Exploration and Application Process: Results from a College Preparation Program for Youth in Foster Care
Haley Morgan, Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Preston Britner, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies
14. The Implications of Ethnic-Racial Socialization for Emerging Adults’ Development Across Ethnic-Racial and Gender Groups
Thessiana Mesilus, Psychological Sciences and Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Annamaria Csizmadia, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

15. How Personality and Physical Attractiveness are Associated with Sexual Behaviors
Paulina Anderson, Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Eva Lefkowitz, Professor and Department Head, Human Development and Family Studies

16. Children’s Narrative Storytelling: Associations Between Expressivity in Early Childhood and Mother’s Supportiveness and Emotion Regulation
Kaleigh Dillon, Human Development and Family Studies and Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Advisor: Beth Russell, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies

19. Behavioral Biases in People at Risk for Problematic Gambling
Skyler Sklenarik, Psychological Sciences
Mirella Fernandez, Psychological Sciences
Michelle Padua, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Robert Astur, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences

Alleyha Dannett, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Human Rights
Frances Ashun, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Communication
Advisor: Shardé Davis, Assistant Professor, Communication

21. WSRAP Undergraduate Research Experience: Cross-Cultural Expansion of School Climate Efforts
Britney Reynolds, Psychological Sciences and Management Information Systems
Advisor: Tamika La Salle, Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology
22. The Impact of Fit Cultivated by Language on the Degree Retention and Attainment of Women and Underrepresented Minorities in Undergraduate Engineering Programs
Vernessa Kingsbury, Anthropology and Human Rights
Advisor: Chrystal Smith, Assistant Professor in Residence, Anthropology
Advisor: Rebecca Campbell, Research Assistant II and Adjunct Instructor, Curriculum and Instruction

23. Informant Report of Cognitive Functioning in Geriatric Depression: Correlates with Objective Cognitive Tests and Structural Imaging
Debra Tomasino, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kevin Manning, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, UConn Health

24. Birth Cohort Changes in Depression in Adolescents: A Meta Analysis
Taylor Mangini, Psychological Sciences and Human Development and Family Sciences
Advisor: Blair Johnson, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

25. The EEG Mu Rhythm and Language Abilities in 18- and 24-month-olds
Dilsara Liyanage, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kimberly Cuevas, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

26. Ghosts of the Past: How Postwar Border and Population Changes Influence the Modern German Right
Ian Barron, Molecular and Cell Biology and Philosophy
Advisor: Charles Lansing, Associate Professor, History

27. Supporting Survivors: The Affordable Care Act and Federal Health Policy Addressing Intimate Partner Violence
Erin Dunn, Political Science and Human Rights
Advisor: Charles Venator-Santiago, Associate Professor, Political Science

28. The Path to Dispossession: Community Relations and Elitism in City of New London
Kevin Fitzgerald, Political Science and Urban and Community Studies
Advisor: Ronald Schurin, Associate Professor in Residence, Political Science

29. Deconstructing the Societal Impacts of Economic Freedom
Rajeshwari Majumdar, Political Science and Mathematics/Statistics
Advisor: Thomas Hayes, Assistant Professor, Political Science
30. What about a Woman President?: Understanding the Effects of Voter Stereotypes on Women Candidates
Sydney Carr, Political Science
Advisor: Evelyn Simien, Professor, Political Science

31. Female Congressional Candidate Emergence in the Trump Era
Kyle Adams, Political Science
Advisor: Paul Herrnson, Professor, Political Science

32. What’s in a Name? An Improved Conceptualization and Measurement of Women’s Empowerment
Rebecca Kaufman, Political Science and Human Rights
Advisor: David Richards, Associate Professor, Political Science

33. Female Genital Mutilation in the United States: A Legal Framework
Mary Szarkowicz, Political Science and Accounting
Advisor: Virginia Hettinger, Associate Professor, Political Science

34. An Unlikely Populist: Donald Trump and the Rhetoric of Elite and Minority Resentment
Jared Quigley, Political Science
Advisor: Virginia Hettinger, Associate Professor, Political Science
Advisor: Kimberly Bergendahl, Assistant Professor in Residence, Political Science
Advisor: Peter Baldwin, Professor, History

35. 2018 Midterm Elections: Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Isaac Lastra Alejos, Political Science
Advisor: Paul Herrnson, Professor, Political Science

36. Veteran Participation in Congressional Midterm Elections
Nicole Lac, Political Science
Advisor: Paul Herrnson, Professor, Political Science

37. We Love Big Brother: An Analysis of the Relationship Between Nineteen Eighty-Four and Modern Politics in the United States and Europe
Edward Pankowski, Political Science
Advisor: Sarah Winter, Professor, English
38. White Opioids in a Black and White World: How Racial Bias Influences Medical Negligence
Sahar Iqbal, Political Science and Individualized Major: International Health and Law
Advisor: César Abadía-Barrero, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Human Rights

39. From the Courtroom to the Classroom: How States Respond to School Finance Litigation
Joy Sgobbo, Political Science
Advisor: Virginia Hettinger, Associate Professor, Political Science

40. The Third Party is the Charm: Mediator Negotiations with Israel and the Palestinians
Anand Veeraraghav, Political Science and Sociology
Advisor: Jeremy Pressman, Associate Professor, Political Science

42. Identification of Barriers and Facilitators of Physical Activity Across the Lifespan
Erin Milner, Nursing
Advisor: Deborah McDonald, Associate Professor, Nursing

43. Using a Focus Group to Evaluate the Utility of Interactive Modules for Self-Management of Low Back Pain
Amanda Pinto, Nursing
Advisor: Angela Starkweather, Professor and Associate Dean, Nursing

44. Neonatal Admission Temperatures: Are We Doing Enough?
Audrey Apanovitch, Nursing
Advisor: Jacqueline McGrath, Professor, Nursing

45. Reducing Glove Waste in the Medical Environment
Ellen Quintana, Nursing
Advisor: Christine Meehan, Adjunct Faculty, Nursing
Advisor: Diane Van Scoter, Associate Professor in Residence, Management and Engineering for Manufacturing

46. Development of a Contraception Workshop for Public High Schools in Connecticut
Christina Van Deventer, Marketing
Kristin Burnham, Pathobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Thomas Van Hoof, Associate Professor, Nursing and Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health
47. Improving Low Back Pain Self-Management with Technology:
Differences in Gene Expression from Pre- to Post-Intervention
Leena Kader, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Angela Starkweather, Professor and Associate Dean, Nursing

48. A Battle on Opiates: The NICU Nurse's Perspective on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Courtney Lopiano, Nursing
Advisor: Xiaomei Cong, Associate Professor, Nursing

49. Perceptual Ratings of Informativeness and Efficiency of Discourse in People with Chronic and Mild Aphasia
Allison Finn, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Jennifer Mozeiko, Assistant Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

50. Does Having a Language Impairment Matter?: A Pilot Study Investigating the Nonverbal and Verbal Contributions of the Accused to the Perception of their Guilt
Melissa Purdy, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences and Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Tammie Spaulding, Associate Professor, Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

51. Reassessing Our Responses to the Everyday Language of Oppression
Anneliese Lapides, Biological Sciences and Human Development and Family Studies
Advisor: Kathleen Tonry, Associate Professor, English

52. Interpersonal Coordination of Goal Directed Actions: A Novel Methodology
John Farrar, Cognitive Science
Advisor: Adam Sheya, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

55. Longitudinal Stability of Hostile Attention Allocation, Attention Bias, and Hostility Symptoms
Adam Mealy, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kimberli Treadwell, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences
56. Examining Factors Related to the Food Insecurity-Obesity Paradox in Low-Income Mothers and Fathers
Emily Taylor, Dietetics
Advisor: Amy Mobley, Associate Professor, Nutritional Sciences

57. Impact of State-By-State Adoption of Key Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Provisions on PED Patients
Margaux Verlaque-Amara, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Aoife Heaslip, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

58. Factors Associated with the Implementation of a Health Education Program in a Small, Rural, Impoverished Community: An Ethnographic Assessment
Rachel Sanacora, Individualized Major: Global Health
Advisor: César Abadía-Barrero, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Human Rights

59. Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown Etiology in a Sri Lankan Agricultural Community
Deborah Foster, Allied Health Sciences and Anthropology
Advisor: Stephen Schensul, Professor, Community Medicine and Health Care, UConn Health

60. Cross Sectional Time Series Analysis on the Impacts of Race on Homeownership
Caroline Brooks, Molecular and Cell Biology and Sociology
Advisor: Richard Williams, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Notre Dame

61. The Linking-Unlinking Game
Jake Murphy, Mathematics
Advisor: Adam Giambrone, Visiting Assistant Professor, Mathematics

62. The Psychology of Baseball: How the Mental Game Impacts the Physical Game
Kiera Dalmass, Statistics
Advisor: Haim Bar, Assistant Professor, Statistics

63. Enhancing the Oxidizing Power of an Environmentally Benign Oxoammonium Salt by Electronic Modification of a Remote Group
Zachary Stempel, Chemistry
Sadie Kiendzior, Chemistry
Advisor: William Bailey, Professor, Chemistry
64. Nanocoatings with Outstanding Thermal Insulation and Flame Retardancy for Aerospace Applications
Monica Zhang, Chemical Engineering
Advisor: Luyi Sun, Associate Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Institute of Materials Science

65. Stretchable Methyl Ammonium Lead Iodide Perovskite Solar Cells for Photovoltaic and Piezoelectric Energy Harvesting
William Tait, Chemical Engineering and Environmental Engineering
Advisor: Luyi Sun, Associate Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Institute of Materials Science
Advisor: Alexander Agrios, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

Julian Yuliawan, Individualized Major: Music Entrepreneurship
Advisor: Jeffrey Ogbar, Professor, History
Advisor: Peter Diplock, Assistant Vice Provost for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Adjunct Faculty, Management

67. Track-and-Field Guide for Visually Impaired Athletes
Niccolò Meniconi, Engineering Physics and Music
Advisor: John Chandy, Professor and Associate Department Head, Electrical and Computer Engineering

68. Effect of Silk-Based Hydrogel Topography on Intestinal Epithelial Cell Morphology and Wound Healing In Vitro
Marisa Boch, Chemical Engineering and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Kelly Burke, Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

69. Analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls and Organochlorines in Blood Spots by Gas Chromatography and Tandem Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS/MS)
Francis Sternberg, Chemistry
Advisor: James Stuart, Professor Emeritus, Chemistry
Advisor: Anthony Provatas, Research Scientist, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering
70. The Design, Synthesis, and Characterization of Polyureas Established through a Rational Co-Design Approach for Use in Dielectric Applications
Sydney Scheirey, Chemistry and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Gregory Sotzing, Professor, Chemistry
Advisor: Yang Cao, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Advisor: Ramamurthy Ramprasad, Professor, Institute of Materials Science

71. Efficient Method for the Identification of Common Herbicides in Rain Water and from Air Filters by UPLC-MS/MS
Steven Kolakowski, Chemistry
Advisor: Anthony Provatas, Research Scientist, Center for Environmental Science and Engineering
Advisor: James Stuart, Professor Emeritus, Chemistry

72. Fabrication of a Unique Device to Accurately Characterize Materials' Thermoelectric Properties
Christopher Choi, Materials Science and Engineering and History
Advisor: Michael Pettes, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

73. Analysis of Growth and Stiffness of Cancer Spheroids Using 3D-Printed Microtweezer Device
Norah Cowley, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Kazunori Hoshino, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

74. Using a Cylindrical Coordinate System to Facilitate Multi-Material 3D Printing
Dennis Scheglov, Mechanical Engineering
Advisor: Xu Chen, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering
Advisor: Iddo Ben-Ari, Associate Professor, Mathematics
Advisor: Jeffrey Meunier, Lecturer, Computer Science and Engineering

75. Technological Implementation in Industry
Robert Oakley, Civil Engineering
Advisor: Jin Zhu, Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering

76. Comparison of Chirped and Unchirped Superlattices as Buffer Layers for Metamorphic InGaAs/GaAs (001) Devices
Xinkang Chen, Computer Engineering
Md Islam, Computer Science and Engineering and Electrical Engineering
Advisor: John Ayers, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
78. Enhancing Breeding Efforts through Fruit Quality Analysis of World’s Largest Aronia Collection
Peter Apicella, Horticulture
Jacob Griffith Gardner, Horticulture
Advisor: Mark Brand, Professor, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

79. EXIT: A Short Film
Matthew Bilmes, Digital Media and Design
Advisor: Timothy Miller, Visiting Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Design

80. The Khmer: A Solo Art Exhibition
James Keth, Art – Painting and Biological Sciences
Advisor: Cora Lynn Deibler, Professor and Acting Department Head, Art and Art History

81. WickAway: An Automatic Candle Extinguisher / Decorative Candle Holder
Trevor Svec, Computer Engineering
Philip Gitman, Chemical Engineering
Advisor: John Ayers, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Advisor: Luyi Sun, Associate Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Institute of Materials Science

82. Low-Profile Assistive Arm Exoskeleton
Ryan Gadea, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Kazunori Hoshino, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

83. Connecting Science to the Digital Arts Through Scientific Animations
Mary Accurso, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Mary Bruno, Assistant Professor in Residence, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Anna Lindemann, Assistant Professor, Digital Media and Design

84. Computational Analysis of Poliovirus Structural Dynamics Using a Coarse-Grain Model
Maneesh Koneru, Structural Biology and Biophysics and Chemistry
Advisor: Eric May, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
85. Assessing the Impact of Uncertain Gene Tree Rooting on Phylogenetic Reconciliation Using a Simulation Framework
Soumya Kundu, Computer Science and Engineering
Advisor: Mukul Bansal, Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Engineering

86. Effect of Acid Rain on Gene Expression in Forest Tree Saplings
Alexander Trouern-Trend, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Jill Wegrzyn, Assistant Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

87. Mitochondrial Genome Evolution in Unisexual Polyploid Salamanders
Omar Padua, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: John Malone, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

88. Associations Between Marijuana Use and Time Spent Playing Different Types of Video Games Alone and with Others
David Bachoy, Physiology and Neurobiology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Christine Ohannesian, Associate Professor, Pediatrics, UConn Health
Advisor: Rhiannon Smith, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Kaitlin Flannery, Assistant Professor, Psychological Sciences

89. The Effect of Rehydration after 24 Hour Dehydration on the Perception of Fatigue and How Challenging it is to Concentrate: A Preliminary Study
Leslie Dunn, Individualized Major: Health and Wellness
Advisor: Lawrence Armstrong, Professor, Kinesiology

90. Antibiotic Discovery in Soil
Emilio Loret de Mola, Individualized Major: Global Health
Advisor: Nichole Broderick, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Patricia Rossi, Assistant Professor in Residence, Molecular and Cell Biology

91. Isolation of Antibiotic Producing Bacteria from Soil
Amanda Pan, Pharmacy and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Patricia Rossi, Assistant Professor in Residence, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Nichole Broderick, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

94. Mutational Frequency of MEN1, CDC73, and CASR in Sporadic Parathyroid Adenoma
Ryan Ramos, Molecular and Cell Biology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Jessica Costa, Assistant Research Professor, Center for Molecular Oncology, UConn Health
95. Identification of Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia coli-Encoded Noncanonical Inflammasome Inhibitors
Sree Kolli, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Sivapriya Kailasan Vanaja, Assistant Professor, Immunology, UConn Health

96. Effect of MELK Inhibitor OTS167 in Combination with Chemo and Targeted Therapies in Triple-negative Breast Cancer
Elizabeth Silver, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Powel Brown, Professor and Chairman, Department of Clinical Cancer Prevention, MD Anderson Cancer Center

97. The Role of a lncRNA, HAGLR, on the Progression of Heptaocellular Carcinoma
Shashank Mishra, Physiology and Neurobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Xiaobo Zhong, Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

98. Fluorescent Phosphoantigen Prodrugs as Ligands of the BTN3A1 Receptor
Caroline Liu, Molecular and Cell Biology
Andrew Wiemer, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

99. Generation of Human Tumor-Associated Antigen Specific T Cells and Characterization of Their Effector Function and Activation Induced Cell Death (AICD) Pathway
Feny Rasania, Pathobiology
Advisor: Arvind Chhabra, Assistant Professor in Residence, School of Medicine, UConn Health

100. VGlut2-positive Colon Nerve Afferent Morphology in TNBS-induced Visceral Hypersensitivity
Dhruv Shah, Molecular and Cell Biology
Bin Feng, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

101. Dysbiosis Identified in Early Neoplastic Colonic Lesions - Early Microbiota Alterations that May Be Linked to Colon Cancer
Derek Pan, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Daniel Rosenberg, Professor, Medicine, UConn Health

102. Tumor-Specific Insertion of an Immunogenic Epitope via CRISPR/Cas9
Ryan Englander, Molecular and Cell Biology and Chemistry
Advisor: Pramod Srivastava, Professor, Immunology, Eversource Energy Chair in Experimental Oncology, UConn Health
103. Validation of a Novel Blocker for Epilepsy-Associated KCNQ2 Channels
Elizabeth Rodier, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Anastasios Tzingounis, Associate Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

104. Modulation of Inhibitory and Excitatory Transmission in Layer 2/3 Pyramidal Neurons of the Rat Prefrontal Cortex by Adenosine
Benjamin Redenti, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Maxim Volgushev, Professor, Psychological Sciences

105. Indy Reduction Maintains Fly Health and Homeostasis
Pooja Patel, Molecular and Cell Biology
Jacob Macro, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Blanka Rogina, Associate Professor, Genetics and Genome Sciences, UConn Health

John Marco Watson Pérez, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Geoffrey Tanner, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Anastasios Tzingounis, Associate Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

107. Identification of Genes Used in Sperm Storage Within the Female Reproductive Tract of Drosophila Melanogaster
Audrey Dellert, Physiology and Neurobiology
Jianjun Sun, Assistant Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

108. Symbiotic Benefits of the Hawaiian Bobtail Squid Accessory Nidamental Gland Bacterial Consortium in Egg Protection Against Algae
Jessica Bertenshaw, Molecular and Cell Biology and Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Spencer Nyholm, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

109. Investigation of the Proteins Involved in Centromere Establishment
Megan Boyer, Molecular and Cell Biology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Barbara Mellone, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology
110. Assessing Specificity and Functional Impact of CRISPR-Cas9 engineered MSH2 variants via Off Target and Microsatellite Instability Analyses
Akriti Mishra, Molecular and Cell Biology and Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Christopher Heinen, Associate Professor, Medicine, UConn Health

111. Post-Mitotic Transcriptional Termination in HeLa Cells
Alexis Dziubek, Molecular and Cell Biology and Pathobiology
Advisor: Leighton Core, Assistant Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

113. Understanding the Role of Minor Splicing in Motor Neuron Function and ALS Disease Pathogenesis
Kyle Drake, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Rahul Kanadia, Associate Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

114. Optimizing Light Pulse Sequences for Optogenetic Suppression of Auditory Cortical Responses to Rhythmic Sound Sequences
Timothy Nolan Jr., Biomedical Engineering and Individualized Major: Computational Neurobiology
Advisor: Heather Read, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering

115. Investigating the Effects of Varied Tonal Cues on Pup and Pro-Social Rat Vocalization Discrimination
Caitlyn Cody, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Heather Read, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering

116. Effort Related Motivational Effects of the Pro-Inflammatory Cytokine Interleukin-6 and the Dopamine D2 Receptor Antagonist Haloperidol in CD-1 Mice: Assessment with a Touchscreen Apparatus
Adam Jarvie, Biological Sciences
Advisor: John Salamone, Distinguished Professor, Psychological Sciences

117. Signaling Pathways of Metallothionein Induced Chemotaxis
Jennifer Messina, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Michael Lynes, Professor and Department Head, Molecular and Cell Biology
118. Pretreatment with Intravenous Fish Oil Reduces Hepatic Ischemia Reperfusion Injury in a Murine Model
Denis de la Flor, Physiology and Neurobiology
Geoffrey Tanner, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physiology and Neurobiology

119. The Mechanism Behind Minimal Lipid Accumulation in Whole Body MicroRNA-200c Knockout Mice After an Alcoholic Binge Diet
Grace Lee, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Li Wang, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology

120. Identifying Novel Transcription Factor Interactions in CNS Projection Neurons
Jacky Yang, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Ephraim Trakhtenberg, Assistant Professor, Neuroscience, UConn Health

121. Co-localization of Protocadherin 8 and Protocadherin Gamma C4 in GABAergic Synapses
Michael Taylor, Biological Sciences
Advisor: Angel de Blas, Professor, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Celia Miralles, Research Assistant III, Physiology and Neurobiology

124. Building Microdrives to Record Memory in Live Rats
Thomas Pietruszewski, Psychological Sciences
Megan Pattoli, Pathobiology and Molecular and Cell Biology
Mahathi Kumar, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor and Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Psychological Sciences

125. Out With the Old, In With the New: How Our Brains Remap in Response to Changing Surroundings
Miriam Katz, Physiology and Neurobiology
Kori Citrin, Psychological Sciences
Nikita Roy, Biological Sciences
Divya Subramanian, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Etan Markus, Professor and Associate Department Head of Graduate Studies, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Geoffrey Tanner, Assistant Professor in Residence, Physiology and Neurobiology
126. The Effects of Stress on the Relationship Between Estradiol and Memory
Mirella Fernandez, Physiology and Neurobiology
Allison Arnista, Psychological Sciences
Kyrstyn Jenkins, Biological Sciences
Callista Love, Physiology and Neurobiology
Advisor: Robert Astur, Associate Professor, Psychological Sciences

127. Defining the Parameters of Using FRET Based BioReporters in High Throughput Plate Reader Format
Xiuyi (Alexander) Yang, Molecular and Cell Biology
Advisor: Adam Zweifach, Associate Professor, Molecular and Cell Biology

128. The Effect of Different Manufacturing Conditions on Product Quality of PLGA Microspheres
Suleyman Bozal, Structural Biology and Biophysics
Advisor: Diane Burgess, Distinguished Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences

129. Distribution and Localization of Novel Iodine Nano Particles in the Human Glioma 1242 Growing in the Brains of Mice
Benjamin Billings, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Henry Smilowitz, Associate Professor, Cell Biology, UConn Health

130. An Economical & Ergonomic Hydrocephalus Software System
Garrett Soler, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Kazunori Hoshino, Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering

131. Motion Classification Using Accelerometers and Pattern Recognition Algorithms
Caitlyn Mundrane, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Insoo Kim, Assistant Professor, Medicine, UConn Health

Naseem Sardashti, Biomedical Engineering
Advisor: Sangamesh Kumbar, Associate Professor, Orthopedic Surgery, UConn Health
Advisor: Swetha Rudraiah, Assistant Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Saint Joseph
133. Temporal Changes in Muscle Development in the Chicken Embryo as Influenced by Probiotic Supplementation
Maya Schlesinger, Animal Science
Advisor: Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Assistant Professor, Animal Science

134. Juvenile Amphibian Growth and Survival in Response to Litter Type
Benjamin Breslau, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Tracy Rittenhouse, Assistant Professor, Natural Resources and the Environment

135. Conservation and Habitat Restoration of the Globally Imperiled Northern Metalmark Butterfly (Calephelis borealis) (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae)
Weston Henry, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Landscape Architecture
Advisor: David Wagner, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

136. Avery Point EcoHusky Rain Garden Project
Annalee Mears, Marine Sciences
Abigail Kwiat, Marine Sciences
Advisor: Syma Ebbin, Associate Professor in Residence, Agricultural and Resource Economics
Advisor: Christine Green, Adjunct Faculty, Instruction and Research, UConn
Avery Point

137. Evidence for Increased Hydrothermal Activity during Deglaciations
Sarah McCart, Marine Sciences
Advisor: David Lund, Associate Professor, Marine Sciences

138. A 1+1D Study of CDT Lattice Gravity
Daniel Kovner, Physics
Advisor: Thomas Blum, Professor, Physics

139. What's so Super(conducting) about STO?
Hope Whitelock, Physics
Advisor: Barrett Wells, Professor, Physics

140. Scandium Fluoride Growth and Study of Negative Thermal Expansion
Bryan Dunn, Physics
Advisor: Barrett Wells, Professor, Physics
Advisor: Boris Sinkovic, Associate Professor, Physics

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141. Response of Jericho Lettuce \( (Lactuca sativa) \) in Fishless Nitrogen Cycling Aquaponics System
Kelly Pfeiffer, Psychological Sciences
Advisor: Julia Cartabiano, Adjunct Faculty and Manager, Spring Valley Student Farm
Alphabetical Listing of Presenters with Poster Numbers

*F denotes a Friday presentation; S denotes a Saturday presentation.*

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Agrawal, Aditi – 94F
Ahmed, Kayla – 34F
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Antony, Maria – 110F
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Ashun, Frances – 20S
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Banerjee, Mitali – 126F
Barron, Ian – 26S
Begam, Tanzin – 142F
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Beltrami, Eric – 103F
Bertenshaw, Jessica – 108S
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Boch, Marisa – 68S
Boudreau, Morgan – 31F
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Burnham, Kristin – 46S
Buscarello, Alexzandrea – 107F
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Cabra, Alexandra – 134F, 135F, 136F
Cammisa, Christine – 45 F
Cao, Kiana – 8S
Carr, Sydney – 30S
Chanla, Tiffany – 49F
Chen, Xinkang – 76S
Chiu, Adam – 123F
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Choi, Christopher – 72S
Citrin, Kori – 125S
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Constantine, Kaleigh – 45F
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Coulter, Alyssa – 120F
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Dahdal, Lorenzo – 24F
Dalmass, Kiera – 62S
Dannett, Alleyha – 20S
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Dellert, Audrey – 107S
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Dillon, Kaleigh – 16S
Donato, Mary – 137F
Dong, Danni – 95F
Drake, Kyle – 113S
Dunn, Bryan – 140S
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McCart, Sarah – 137S
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Mears, Annalee – 136S
Meniconi, Niccolò – 67
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Messina, Jennifer – 117
Milla, Brenda – 127F
Mills, Emma – 106F
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Mishra, Akriti – 110S
Mishra, Shashank – 97S
Morgan, Haley – 13S
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Oakley, Robert – 75S
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Pleasant, Veronica – 135F, 134F, 136F
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Yang, Xiuyi (Alexander) – 127S
Ye, Bryanna – 99F
Yuliawan, Julian – 66
Zhang, Monica – 64S
Special Thanks

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