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Note: Each underlined program title on this page is clickable and will take you to the respective page

NEWSLETTER

OURS | Spring 2025

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SERVICES

What is OURS

The Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS), established in 2016, is charged with expanding undergraduate research opportunities to the California State University, Long Beach student body. OURS works in collaboration with staff and faculty in all CSULB Colleges, Divisions, and units to cultivate strong relationships in support of undergraduate research

OURS Office

Please stop by our office in SSSC-120 to ask us any questions related to undergraduate research, meeting with a peer advisor, or regarding upcoming undergraduate research workshops.

End of Spring 2025

We would like to commend all students, staff, and faculty for the work you do as part of the various undergraduate research programs this semester. Congratulations and good luck in your future endeavors to the CSULB Class of 2025. For our new and continuing students, we look forward to working with you all this upcoming year as we return to campus for the fall semester.

Elyzza Aparicio, Ph.D.
OURS Director

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Student Highlights

Emma Varela is going to Stanford in the Summer!

Evaluation of Long-Term Performance of Transportation Earthworks Prone to Weather-Driven Deterioration Under Changing Climate
with Professor Amr Morsy, Department of Civil Engineering & Construction Engineering Management

The project looks into how climate change will affect the deterioration of embankments. Through use of a well verified model, which simulates the long term performance of these embankments given certain conditions, we found that climate change will negatively affect the long-term performance of these structures, leading to exacerbated failures and shorter service lives.

I have been doing research with my PI for about a year now and have become proficient using various pieces of software while also becoming much more confident working with large data sets.
I applied to the Leadership Alliance and was selected to go to Stanford this summer and work with a group at SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) that is trying to discover axion dark matter.

Destiny Holmes is an Award Winner!

Class E bZIP Transcription Factors Confer Salinity Tolerance by Activating NCED Gene Expression in Arabidopsis thaliana
with Dr. Judy Brusslan

With this research fellowship, I aim to expand on and add to my current research by looking into new ideas such as designing and testing the efficiency of Real Time- quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) primers of NCED family members, updating established salt protocols, and running a dual luciferase (DLR) assay.

As an American Society of Plant Biologists Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (ASPB SURF) Award Winner, I will conduct research for 10 weeks during Summer 2025 and attend the annual ASPB meeting in Canada during Summer 2026 to present my research. This award will allow me to deepen my knowledge and skills in molecular biology and provide the opportunity to network and collaborate with my peers and fellow awardees.

Destiny is also a UROP alum!

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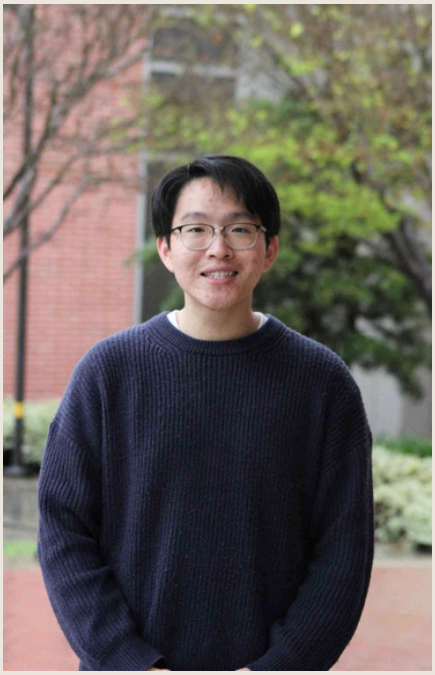
Student Highlights

Calvin Chiu Wins the 2025 Outstanding Baccalaureate Student Award for the College of Liberal Arts!



Does Deafness Refine Visuospatial Memory in Congenital or Acquired Deaf Individuals?
with Dr. Samar Needham, Dr. Bill Pedersen, Dr. Gabriella Hancock

My project looks at how cognitive-based factors such as deafness affects visuospatial memory. Specifically, my work posits that neuroplastic changes within the brain occur in response to deficits in phonological encoding, bolstering visuospatial memory capacity among deaf individuals.

I first began research in my second year when I was a student in OURS Connects under Dr. Samar Needham, where I gained a profound passion for understanding the neural underpinnings behind human memory. As a research assistant, I performed tasks such as conducting testing sessions and running 2-back tests to measure working memory capacity, which would provide me the training and motivation to pursue my own independent projects. My efforts with researching memory allowed me to be selected for the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity program, wherein I worked with Dr. Hancock in the Stress Technology Applied Research Lab to conduct an independent project looking at the effects of stress on vivid memory recall.

Professor Jesus Ayala and CSULB Alumna gets Published!

Jesus Ayala and Raya Torres (CSULB Alumna ‘24) have been published to Journalism Practice!

Ayala Rico, J., & Torres, R. G. (2025). One Year in Uvalde: Mapping Journalists’ Trauma Responses in the Aftermath of a Mass Shooting. Journalism Practice, 1–25.
https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2025.2496937

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OURS Connects

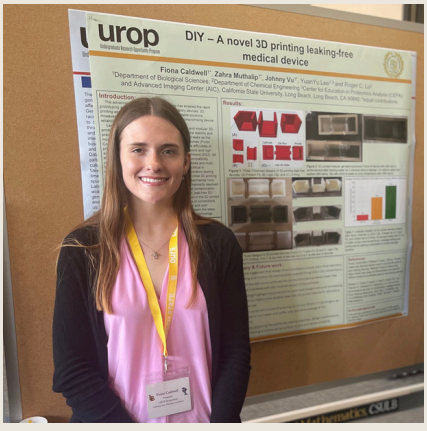
OURS Connects Student Highlights

Grant Tazo

Two-Mode Adaptive Schemes for VAR Control With Solar Power and Energy Storage using IEEE 123 Bus with Dr. Henry Yeh

As part of an ongoing effort to modernize the power grid, I analyzed adaptive VAR control for three-phase, multi-branch distribution systems with integrated solar PV and battery storage. Real time simulations using the IEEE 123 Bus system on a Real Time Digital Simulator (RTDS) demonstrated that a Two-Mode Adaptive VAR strategy can enhance voltage regulation and improve energy efficiency for future grid applications.

This research has provided valuable hands-on experience in advanced power system modeling and simulation, while also strengthening my skills in data analysis and control systems. Working under the guidance of Dr. Yeh, I've had the opportunity to present my findings to faculty and peers, collaborate on innovative ideas, and contribute to ongoing discussions about the future of distributed energy resources. My experience in his lab also played a key role in helping me secure a summer research opportunity at the Naval Research Laboratory in Port Hueneme.



Fiona Caldwell

DIY - A novel 3D printing leaking-free medical device with Dr. Yuan Yu (Kent) Lee

This project aimed to create a 3D printed modular gel electrophoresis device with reversible, leak free closures which is intended to increase the accessibility of traditionally expensive gel electrophoresis devices.

Over the past two semesters, I have had exposure to hands-on research via designing and 3D printing prototypes for testing, as well as in-silico research experience via molecular docking BPA with the human androgen receptor. I presented my 3D printing research at the UROP symposium which was a very exciting and rewarding experience. Initially I was nervous, but it was ultimately very inspiring to see so many students and faculty passionate about research.

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OURS Connects Student Highlights

Kathy Nguyen
Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program (WWSDP)
with Dr. Jeremy Ramirez

We are investigating best practices for training service dogs to assist veterans. Our team collaborates closely with service dog organizations to enhance the effectiveness of training methods.

I've had the opportunity to conduct research and contribute to data coding using Atlas. Alongside a team of three, we carried out a thematic analysis and engaged with both our sponsor and service dog organizations to gain deeper insight into the project's goals. Each week, we present progress updates and assign responsibilities to ensure productive collaboration.

Sarah Nguyen
Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program
with Dr. Jeremy Ramirez, DrPH

This study explores the role of service dogs as a non-traditional intervention for veterans with PTSD. We are in the process of implementing a guided list of best practices to ensure a more standardized process that current and future service dog organization will follow to train dogs, equip staff/ facility, and help veterans that are in need!

Through BUILD, I've had the opportunity to develop a full research project from proposal to developing manuscript, which has greatly strengthened my skills in literature review, data analysis, and policy translation. The manuscript examines qualitative and quantitative outcomes such as improved sleep, reduced social isolation, and decreased medication use, in comparison to standard mental health treatments. I am currently looking to present my work on service dogs and PTSD at a service dog conference in July, and I'm currently preparing for upcoming summer research and internship opportunities focused on public health. My experience has deepened my commitment to pursuing a graduate degree in public health with a focus on evidence-based and equitable health interventions.

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OURS Connects Student Highlights

Arden Nguyen

Revolutionizing Stroke Care: The Future of Fall Risk Assessment Using Smartphones

with Dr. Vennila Krishnan (Department of Physical Therapy)

I am currently assisting Dr. Krishnan with data organization for a joint study with Chapman University. My responsibility is to organize data collected from study participants via remote sensors, after which I will help with analysis using machine learning models.

I am new to research in the field of physical therapy, so it has been interesting to learn about the different types of studies being conducted. However, I am eager to build on my existing knowledge and skills while gaining new experiences. For example, I had the opportunity to visit a lab and participate in a trial run for another study about the effects of peripheral vision loss on turning mechanisms.

Ryan Yuuki Funakoshi

Projects:

1. Qualitative study on a promising chelator, LIO, for pharmaceutical applications (analytical).
2. Study of diffusion-controlled reaction kinetics of metal-TMDGA complex (theoretical).
3. Quantitative study of reaction kinetics of a chelator, DOTA (analytical).
4. Spectroscopic properties of second-generation molecular motor-rotator (theoretical).
5. ...and more coming.

with Dr. Stephen Mezyk, Dr. Enrico Tapavicza

My primary focus is to understand physical properties and related molecular phenomena using computational methods, chemistry, physics, and mathematical intuition. Essentially, I am building molecules in simulated environments to compute physical values that can be used in or applied to analytical research.

I have presented research projects three times this semester, including the SRC (research competition), the ACS conference in San Diego, and the UROP research symposium. It has been an amazing experience learning how multi-disciplinary research is done, and I cannot emphasize the joy of being part of such a community. I will continue to pursue my interests in theoretical studies to better understand chemical phenomena.

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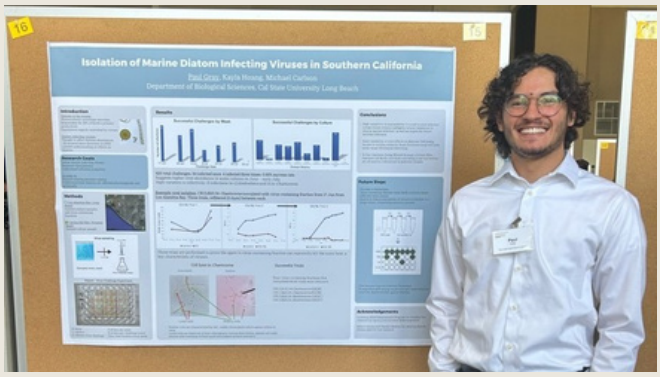
OURS Connects Student Highlights



Paul Gray

Isolation and Ecological Impacts of Marine Diatom-Infecting Viruses in Southern California with Dr. Michael Carlson

As I reflect on almost two years of microbial ecology work with Dr. Carlson, I would never have expected to invest as much time, effort, and heart into this work as I have. Research into diatom-virus interactions and isolating diatom-infecting viruses has led me to discover my genuine passion for research, which now defines my new career trajectory. I have grown immensely as a person and researcher, learning to stay resilient with the projects I've had the honor to lead which will result in various future publications. I'm deeply grateful for the lab partners, OURS Connect and other mentors that have helped me along the way, especially research PI who supported not only my project but also my development as a researcher. I look forward to representing my lab and CSULB at the upcoming Southern California Academy of Sciences (SCAS) conference at University of California Irvine. I am excited and prepared to pursue graduate school and a research career focusing in medical microbiology, immunology, and virology.

Angela Morales

What is the association of stressful life events and cognition in diverse college students?
with Dr. Sandra P. Arévalo (SHEaLcA Lab)

This spring, I joined Dr. Arévalo's Stress and Health: A Lifecourse Approach (SHEaLcA) Lab. It was an exciting experience recently presenting at the UROP Symposium with my fellow lab members. Our research focused on analyzing the association between stressful life events and cognition and stressful life events and GPA in college students aged 18-39, by exploring the differences in this association by race-ethnicity and by gender. Through my involvement in Dr. Arévalo's lab, I have learned the skills required to construct a research project. I am grateful for this opportunity, as it has made me confident that chronic stress exposure research is what I would like to continue pursuing.

ours **NEWSLETTER**

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OURS Connects Student Highlights

Alyssa Rowland

Wisdom as a Pedagogy: African Narratives, Proverbs, and Riddles with Dr. M. Keith Claybrook Jr.

Wisdom as a Pedagogy: African Narratives, Proverbs, and Riddles started as an exploration of African literature and orature as valid sources of knowledge in contrast to the institutionalized Euro-American model of thinking. The project has since grown into examining the benefits of employing culturally grounded pedagogical approaches in our classroom curriculum and campus programming to foster a stronger sense of identity and belonging, thus boosting student success and overall well-being.

I have had a transformative experience conducting research and presenting my work for the very first time at the Student Research Competition. I have gained invaluable practical experience as well as a great sense of community here at The Beach through my involvement with OURS connects. I'm looking forward to growing in community with my newfound team of peers, colleagues, and mentors.

Jessica King (left) and Emily Doffing (right)

Jessica King

Faculty: Dr. Danielle Kohfeldt and Dr. Dave Whitney

Disabled Graduate Students' Experiences and Vision of Change for Higher Education with Dr. Danielle Kohfeldt
Pre-Employment Training for LIFE Project Autistic Students with Dr. Dave Whitney

Dr. Kohfeldt's Disability Justice Research Lab is a student-led, human-first collective of disabled students collaborating to promote disability justice at CSULB and in overall higher education. For the past year, we progressed through multiple projects with the overarching theme of advocating for disabled graduate students and educating faculty on accessibility and accommodations. As a research assistant with a creative writing and literary background, I've contributed to the completion of the IRB application, grant submissions, and conference proposals.

Dr. Whitney's Work LIFE Autism Research Lab pursues the goal of increasing employment success and professional development of CSULB autistic students enrolled in BMAC's LIFE Project. With our literature review of autism employment rates, social communication, and other systemic issues, we're developing professional development workshops for LIFE Project. I'm proud to serve as a research assistant as well as a student representative of LIFE Project in our team, providing insights and suggestions as a neurodivergent woman.

Being involved in both of these research labs has emboldened and broadened my disability advocacy efforts. Along with feeling more confident in my graduate school applications and professional career choices, I was inspired to initiate new disability-centered research labs through my forthcoming nonprofit, White Dove Disability Advocacy!

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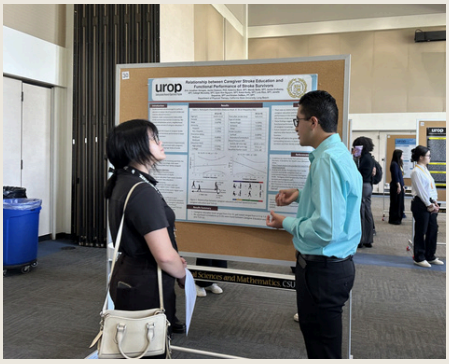
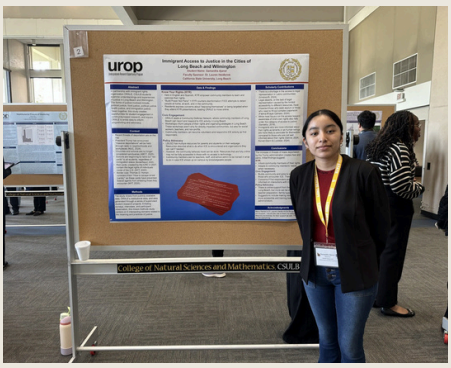
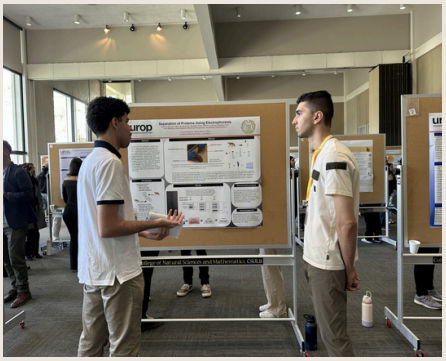
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

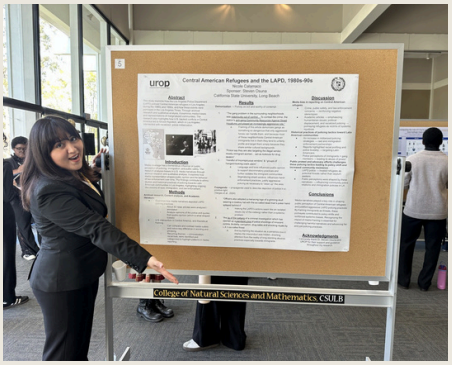
UROP Symposium at Week of RSCA

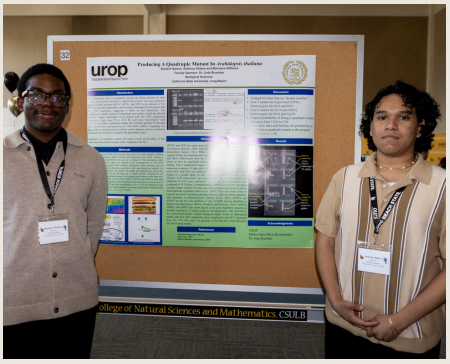
Presenter	Presentation Title
Alizeyah Hallam	Sustainable Snacking
Anahi Javier	Health and Math Children's Books
Andrea Garcia	Virtual Reality and the Effects of Prosocial Behavior
Andrew Le	Exploring Bisexual Discrimination in the Workplace
Angel Leyva	CSULB Digital Twin for Testing Transportation Systems with Connected and Automated Vehicles
Angela Morales	What is the association of stressful life events and cognition in diverse college students?
Ares Ordanez	What is the association of stressful life events and cognition in diverse college students?
Arturo Jimenez	Blockchain and Cryptocurrency in P2P Lending
Ashley Santillan	Behavioral Online Peer to Peer Lending with Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies
Autumn Herrington	Investigating the role of C1q in programming macrophage responses
Chenchu Yakasiri Saravanan	Characterization of atomically thin $PtTe_2$ crystals
Chisom Okoye	Virtual Reality and the Effects of Prosocial Behavior
Christopher Lee Raniag	Zeta Potential and Size Analysis of Amyloid Aggregation
Christopher Perez	Engineering, Fabrication and Motion Dynamics of Hematite Microparticles Toward Smart Materials & Systems
Clara Sous	The Role of Lipid binding of the C-terminal Domain in Apolipoprotein A-I
Dayana Lopez	Graphene and Carbon black as additives
Emily Serrano	Children's Science Engagement and Memory Retention Through Informal Learning Environments and Parental Scaffolding
Eric Venegas	Relationship between Caregiver Stroke Education and Functional Performance of Stroke Survivors
Faith Reamico	Investigating the role of C1q in programming macrophage responses
Fiona Caldwell	A Novel 3D-Printing Leak-Free Medical Device
Genaro Valencia Patino	Gamification In Higher Education: How Feasible Is It For Students?

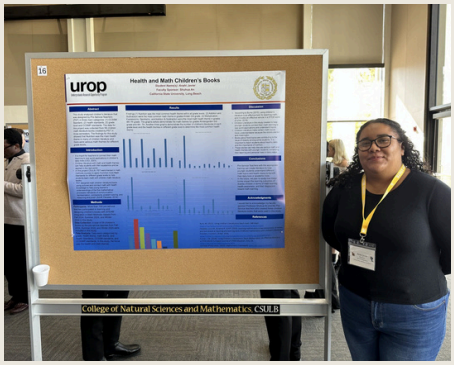












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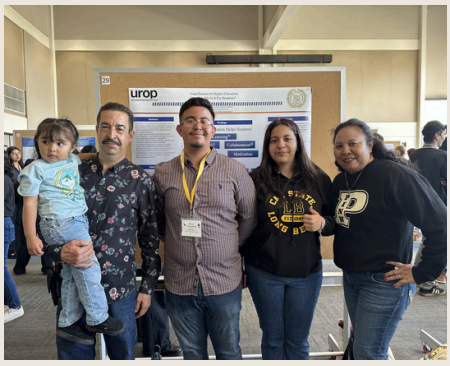
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

UROP Symposium at Week of RSCA

Presenter	Presentation Title
Hailey Nguyen	Validation of the Competency Test for Adapted Physical Education
Harmony Panameno	Parental Smartphone Engagement's Role in Parent-Child Interactions
Hazel Rubio	Validation of the Competency Test for Adapted Physical Education
Italy Escobar Dubon	What is the association of stressful life events and cognition in diverse college students?
Jacquelyn Dao	Engineering, Fabrication and Motion Dynamics of Hematite Microparticles Toward Smart Materials & Systems
Jennifer Delgado	Children's Science Engagement and Memory Retention Through Informal Learning Environments and Parental Scaffolding
Jocelyn Do	Comparative Biochemical Analysis of Fmoc-Amino Acid Derivatives as Potential Butyrylcholinesterase Inhibitors for Alzheimer's Disease
Johnny Vu	DIY – A novel 3D printing leaking-free medical device
Katherine Chavez De La O	Lady's Magazine or Polite Companion (1759-1767)
Kendall Allen	The Thoughts and Ideas of British Women in the 18th Century in the Ladys Magazine
Kristine Torres	Virtual Reality and the Effects of Prosocial Behavior
Luke Liang	Construction of Antibody-Antifungal Protein Hybrids as a Potential Drug Against Candida albicans
Margarita Carvajal	Exploring Bisexual Discrimination in the Workplace
Mohammed Abdulhasan	Optimum Incubation of TEVp NT* Protease With Guinea Pig ApoE
Naya Gudeta	Insight into Human Apolipoprotein A-I/LPS Interaction through Monomeric Mutan
Nicole Calamaco	Central American Refugees and the LAPD, 1980s-90s
Noe Salazar	Sustainable Snacking
Polo Zahir Rodriguez	Effect of Visual Distortion and Interface Contrast on Driving Performance
Priscilla Tapia	Love, Loss, and Music: Depictions of the Greek Myth Orpheus and Eurydice
Rami Al Harastani	Separation of Proteins Using Electrophoresis
Renee Hau	Multifactorial Process of Stuttering
Samantha Ajanel	Immigrant Access to Justice in the Cities of Long Beach and Wilmington
Sepideh Torgoly	Improving Obstructive Sleep Apnea Management: The Role of Wearable Devices and Health Coaching
Sophia Martinez	Construction of Antibody-Antifungal Protein Hybrids as a Potential Drug Against Candida albicans
Xin Ma	Engineering, Fabrication and Motion Dynamics of Hematite Microparticles Toward Smart Materials & Systems
Yasir Hossain	CSULB Digital Twin for Testing Transportation Systems with Connected and Automated Vehicles
Zyanya Gomez Garcia	Optimizing Sensor Location for Fall Risk Detection



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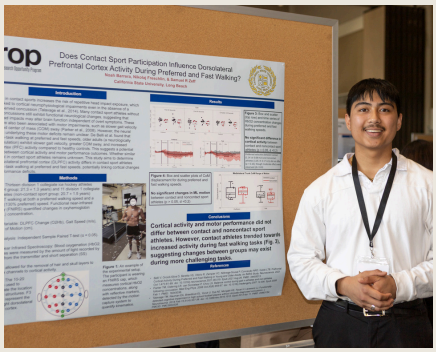
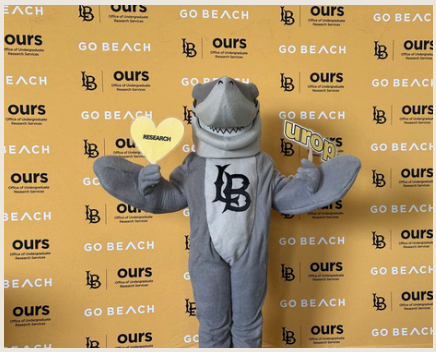
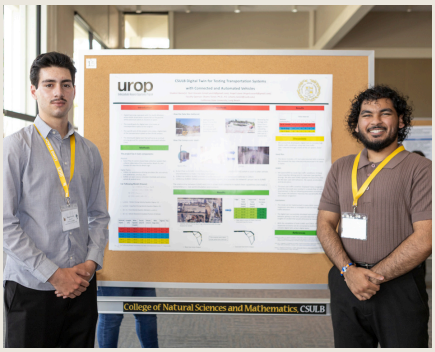
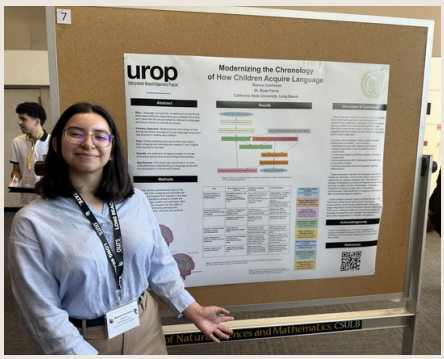
UROP Symposium at Week of RSCA

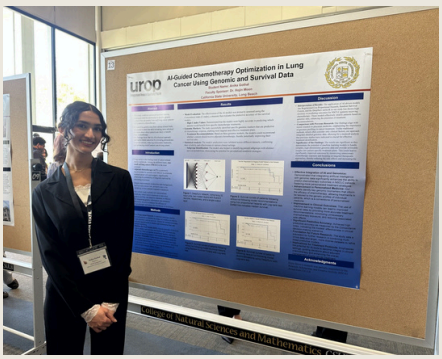
Presenter	Presentation Title
Adelynn Everitt	Innate Numeracy: A Preliminary Framework in Early Development
Amy Marquez	"Myoglobin content in the jaw muscles of coyotes from populations with variable feeding strategies"
Anika Gothal	AI-Guided Chemotherapy Optimization in Lung Cancer Using Genomic and Survival Data
Anthony Aldana	Producing a Quadruple Mutant in Arabidopsis Thaliana
Bianca Contreras	Modernizing the Chronology of How Children Acquire Language
Candice (Guinness) Ng	Deciphering the Role of Androgen Receptor in Sex Differences in Social Behavior of Young Mice
Claire (James) Henderson	Living and Learning at CSULB/in Southern California
Clarissa Fausto Zepeda	Performing Change: A Guide to Radical Educational Practices
Daniel Chavez	Construction of Antibody-Antifungal Protein Hybrids as a Potential Drug Against Candida albicans
David Tran	Development of 3D Tissue Models for Microvasculature Studies
Emily Temblador	Evaluating Corrosion of Buried Steel
Evelyn Perez	Bio-Cementation for Coastal Erosion Mitigation in Southern California
Geidy Perez	Engineering Tissue Models: dECM on Muscle Production
Giuliana Ventimiglio	The Impact of Oral Contraceptives on the Acute Stress Response, Aerobic Capacity, and Performance
Hannah Ouang	Role of Financial Resources and Perceptions on Health: Differences among Immigrants and Native-Born
Isamar Alfarez	The Impact of Oral Contraceptives on the Acute Stress Response, Aerobic Capacity, and Performance
Jake Hunter	Heating Stage for the Optimal Crystallization of Ammonium Perchlorate NH4 (CIO4)
Jo Ann Derrick	Toxic Threat - Bisphenol A - are frozen food safe to eat?
Karen My	Women in Early Social Media
Lizbeth Blandon Pajarito	Optimal Sensor Placement for 360° Turn Fall Risk Assessment
London Stansberry	Narrative Identity and Well-Being in the Time of COVID-19
Manrique Williams	Producing a Quadruple Mutant in Arabidopsis Thaliana
Markest (Nuraa) Taylor	Producing A Quadruple Mutant In Arabidopsis thaliana
Martha (Isabel) Martinez	Narrative Identity and Well-Being in the Time of COVID-19











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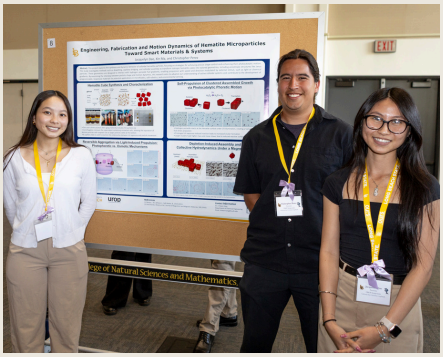
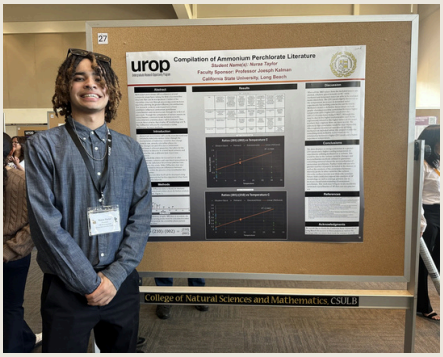
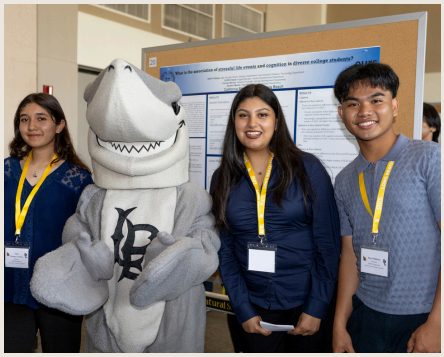
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)

UROP Symposium at Week of RSCA

Presenter	Presentation Title
Matthew Figueroa	Numerical Investigation of the Flow Induced by DBD Plasma Actuators on a 2D Cylinder
Matthew Tamarin	An Introduction to Aircraft Icing & Ice-phobic Techniques for Engineering Students
Maya Garcia-Lewis	Quantifying Compliance in Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers
Michelle Do	Controlled Bubble Generation in Boiling Chamber using Laser-Induced Heating
Miranda Arnold	"Working Memory Study"
Natalia Zavala	Construction of Antibody-Antifungal Protein Hybrids as a Potential Drug Against Candida albicans
Nghi (Meadow) Le	Do Environmental, Emotional, and Neurobiological Factors Driven by Survival Instinct Influence Innate Infant Language-Acquisition Skills?
Noah Barrera	Does Contact Sport Participation Influence Dorsolateral Prefrontal Cortex Activity During Preferred and Fast Walking
Odalys Portillo	Developing IDF Curves to Assess Climate Change Impacts on Earth Infrastructure in California
Rabia Ahmed	Quantifying Compliance in Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers
Ryan (Yuuki) Funakoshi	Steady-state Gamma Irradiation for Evaluating Radiolytic Reaction Kinetics of 5-LIO(Me-3,2-HOPO) in Aqueous Solution: pseudo in vivo Experiment
Serenity Vejar	The Impact of Oral Contraceptives on the Acute Stress Response, Aerobic Capacity, and Performance
Siluni Abeywickrama	The Influence of Alcohol Priming and Angry Driving on Speeding
Sophia Jobson	Quantifying Compliance in Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers
Sophia Saldana	Effect of Financial Strain and Cortisol Patterns on Telomere Length During Pregnancy
Taveed Tamarin	An Introduction to Aircraft Icing & Ice-phobic Techniques for Engineering Students
Valentina Veal	Quantifying Compliance in Patients with Diabetic Foot Ulcers
Venus Wong	Toxic Threat - Bisphenol A - are frozen food safe to eat?
Victoria Velasco	Gentrification and Community Dynamics in Downtown Santa Ana
Zayanya Carrillo	A strategy for Attenuation of Shear Waves







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Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD)

Graduating Seniors

Name	Division	Major
Alyssa Alfaro	Year 2 Scholar	Biomedical Engineering
Wesley Chen	Year 2 Scholar	Biomedical Engineering
Calvin Chiu	Fellow	Psychology
Edwin Danahy	Year 2 Scholar	Biomedical Engineering
Joselyn (Jo) Estrada	Year 2 Scholar	Microbiology
Brandon Lee	Fellow	Chemistry
Manuel Marroquin	Fellow	Nutrition and Food Science, Emphasis: Dietetics
Grace Min	Year 2 Scholar	Psychology and Criminology & Criminal Justice
Madison (Madi) Roach	Year 2 Scholar	Psychology and Human Development
Alp Tahincioglu	Year 2 Scholar	Biomedical Engineering
Sofia Uribe	Year 2 Scholar	Psychology
Kailee Yang	Year 2 Scholar	Psychology

Awards/Honors

Department/University Awards

- **Calvin Chiu** (Fellow) - 2024-2025 Most Outstanding Senior in Psychology Award – Award conferred for top student in the Psychology Department in terms of academics, scholarship, and service
- **Calvin Chiu** (Fellow) - 2025 Outstanding Baccalaureate from the College of Liberal Arts – this award celebrates the commitment to academic excellence in the College of Liberal Arts. One of two awardees in the College of Liberal Arts for distinguished academic, research, and extracurricular achievements.
- **Sofia Uribe** (Year 2 Scholar) - 2024-2025 Lucio Morales Research Award/Outstanding Senior in Psychology – research award awarded by the Department of Psychology and one of the top 5% of students in the Psychology Department in terms of academics, scholarship, and services.

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Awards/Honors

Grace Min


Sarah Nguyen

Fellowships/Scholarships

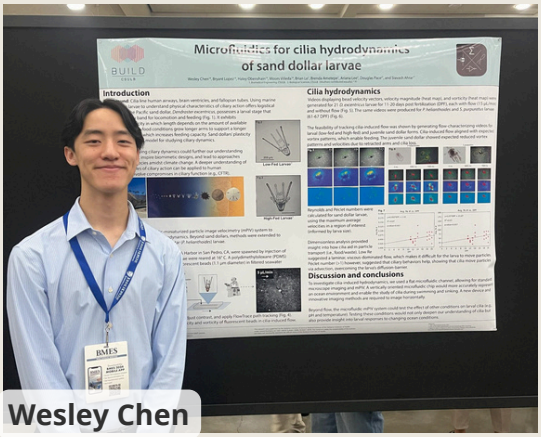
2025 Summer Student Research Assistantship

Congratulations to Grace Min who will be participating in a paid research assistantship position at CSULB with Dr. Robert Schug, a professor in Criminal Justice. This assistantship is funded by CSULB Academic Affairs in collaboration with the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED).

DELTA Scholar – Health Leadership Fellows Program

Congratulations to Sarah Nguyen, who was one of five students selected for this prestigious 18-month fellowship, specializing in healthcare consulting, policy, and strategic leadership through high-impact projects. This fellowship involves collaborating with healthcare executives, faculty mentors, and industry leaders to analyze challenges, conduct data-driven research, and develop policy recommendations while strengthening expertise in project management and stakeholder engagement.

Publications



Wesley Chen

Chen, W. A., Lopez, B. A., Obenshain, H. B., Villeda, M. M., Le, B. T., Ameteoe, B. A. A. B., Lee, A. M., Pace, D. A., Ahrar, S. (2024). Microfluidics for hydrodynamic investigations of sand dollar larvae. AIP Advances, 14(11), 115117. https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0230905

Alp Tahincioglu

Parekh, A., **Tahincioglu, A.**, Walters, C., Chisolm, C., Williamson, S., Janorkar, A. V., & Roach, M. D. (2025). Citrus-Fruit-Based Hydroxyapatite Anodization Coatings on Titanium Implants. Materials, 18(5), 1163. https://doi.org/10.3390/ma18051163

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Conferences/Presentations

Conference Presentations			
Conference	**BUILD Trainee(s)**	**Major, Year in School**	**Presentation Title**
Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) | Feb. 20-22, Denver, CO	**Sofia Uribe**, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Psychology, senior	"Don't prime and drive: Alcohol priming moderates the relationship between anger and aggressive driving behaviors" – poster presentation
CSULB Student Research Competition (SRC) | Mar. 7, CSULB	**Calvin Chiu,** BUILD Fellow	Psychology, senior	"Does Deafness Refine Visuospatial Memory in Congenital or Acquired Deaf Individuals?" - oral presentation
	Edwin Danahy, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Biomedical Engineering, senior	"Engineered Composite Collagen Scaffolds for Improved Skeletal Muscle Cell Differentiation" – oral presentation
	Grace Min, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Psychology and Criminology, senior	"Examining the Effects of Intergroup Contact on Peers' Evaluations in Task Group Settings" - oral presentation
California Speech Hearing Association (CSHA) Conference| Mar. 13-16, Pasadena, CA	**Vincent Miramontes-Andrade,** Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Speech-Language Pathology	"Assessing the Impact of First-Hand Experience on ASD Knowledge" - oral presentation
U.S. National Combustion Meeting | Mar. 16-19, Boston, MA	**Gabriel Lopez**, Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Aerospace Engineering, junior	"Particle size effects of B4C-CuO Burning Rates" - poster presentation
Western Regional Honors Council Conference | Apr. 3-5, Denver, CO	**Vincent Miramontes-Andrade,** Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Speech-Language Pathology	"From Disruption to Innovation: Redesigning the Honors Peer Mentor Program For the Future" - panel presentation
California Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics | April 24-26, Long Beach, CA	**Manuel Marroquin**, BUILD Fellow	Nutrition and Food Science, senior	"Funding Your Dietetics Education" - oral presentation

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Conferences/Presentations

Conference Presentations			
Conference	**BUILD Trainee(s)**	**Major, Year in School**	**Presentation Title**
Western Psychological Association	May 1-4, Las Vegas, NV	**Kailee Yang**, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Psychology, senior	"Does Stress Increase Vivid Memory Recall Capacity of VR-Based Tasks?" - poster presentation
		Grace Min, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Psychology and Criminology, senior	"Examining the Effects of Intergroup Contact on Peers' Evaluations in Task Group Settings" - poster presentation
		Calvin Chiu, BUILD Fellow	Psychology, senior	1. "Does Stress Increase Vivid Memory Recall Capacity of VR-Based Tasks?" – poster presentation 2. "Does Deafness Refine Visuospatial Memory in Congenital or Acquired Deaf Individuals?" - poster presentation 3. "Provoked and powerless: Perceptions of target hostility and negative affective reactions to the provocation mediate the relationship between target type and state anger" - poster presentation
		Sofia Uribe, Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Psychology, senior	1. "The effects of emotions on visuospatial working memory and math anxiety" - poster presentation 2. "Driven by violence, primed by alcohol: Prime type moderates the relationship between the enjoyment of violence and speeding" - poster presentation

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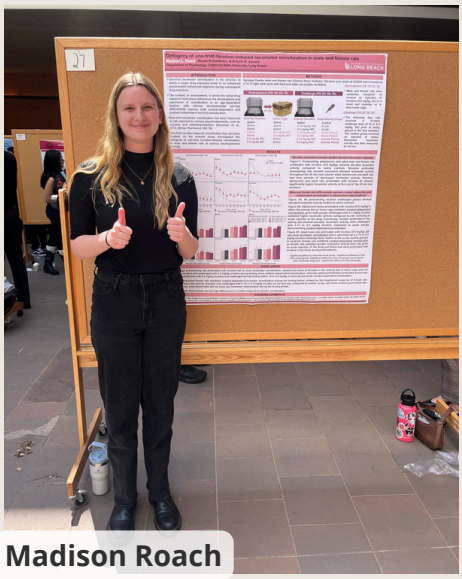
BUILD Application Will Open Fall 2025!

Interested in learning more about the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program?

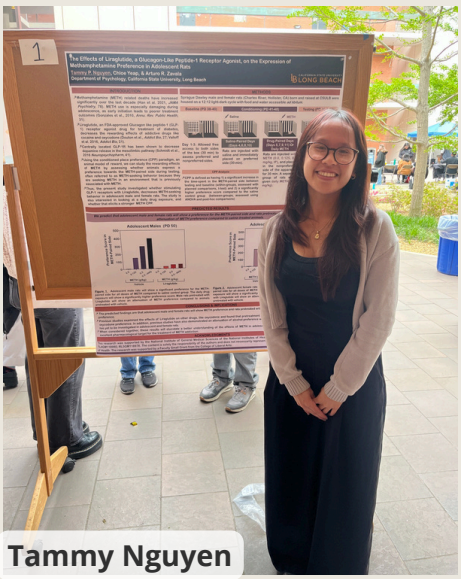
Enter your name on our Interest Form and we will contact you for upcoming info sessions, workshops, and when our application is open! Learn more about the program here: CSULB Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program.

Our application will open in Fall 2025 (for Summer 2026 start). If you have any questions, we are here to help! Contact us at: build@csulb.edu. Follow us on social media @csulbbuild for updates and to follow along the BUILD Scholars' and Fellows' journeys!



Madison Roach

Sofia Uribe



Tammy Nguyen

BUILD Tablers at Psych Day

BUILD Spring 2025 Potluck

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McNair Scholars Program

What is the McNair Scholars Program

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a TRIO program funded by the U.S Department of Education, designed to prepare and support underrepresented undergraduate students in their pursuit of doctoral studies.

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

Makana Woods, Kinesiology: Exercise Science BS
- Mentor: Dr. Kevin Valenzuela

Jacob Nguyen, Psychology BA
- Mentor: Dr. Guido Urizar

Mika Toyama, Social Work BA
- Mentor: Dr. Jason Plummer

Viviana Hernandez, Communication BA
- Mentor: Dr. Lynda McCroskey

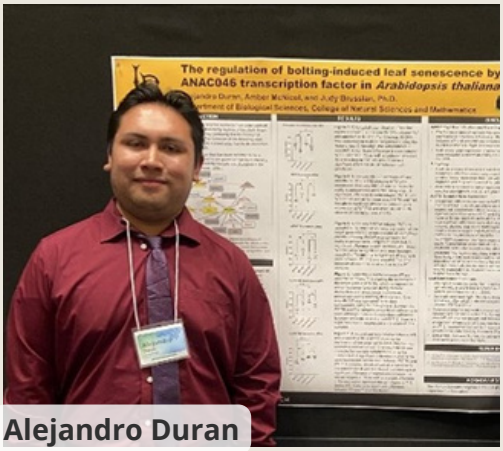
Jose Pineda, Physics BS
- Mentor: Dr. Thomas Khalehn

Natalie Vega, Psychology BA
- Mentor: Dr. Becky Nash

Heiddy Ussery, Sociology BA
- Mentor: Dr. Shelly Collins

Ali Curiel Silva, Marine Biology BS
- Mentor: Dr. Christine Whitcraft

Alejandro Duran, Biochemistry BS
- Mentor: Dr. Judy Brusslan



Alejandro Duran

Scholar Name	Graduate School	Program
Jacob Nguyen	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Clinical Health Psychology
Alejandro Duran	University of California of Los Angeles	Master of Applied Chemical Sciences
Mika Toyama	• California State University Long Beach • University of Michigan • University of Pennsylvania	Master of Social Work
Viviana Hernandez	• University of Southern California • Loyola Marymount University	Masters
Jose Pineda	• Carnegie Mellon University	Master of Physics
Darrell White	• University of Arizona	Master of Rhetoric, Composition and Teaching of English With a Graduate Teaching Assistantship

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Continuing Scholars

Maylia Brown

- Research with Dr. Chantrey J. Murphy

Danny Sarmiento

- Research with Dr. Panadda Marayong

Maylia Brown

2025-2026 New McNair Cohort & Research Activity

Name	Major	SRIP Mentor
Seun Adeoye Oghuma	Psychology	Dr. Amber Johnson
Andrew Arroyo	Psychology	Dr. Lauren Heidbrink
Samyiah Bryant-Taylor	Psychology BA	Dr. Chantrey J. Murphy
Launa Chhor	International Studies	Dr. Kim Kelly
Natalie Flores	Psychology	Dr. Barbara Caplan
Melissa Marie Gandara	Computer Science	Dr. Sarah Grefe
Adriana Gonzalez Azucar	Psychology	Dr. Joanna Barrera
Cassandra Guillen	Psychology	Dr. Christopher Warren
Maryna Marzeena	Psychology	Dr. Samar Needham
Mika Muyango	Africana Studies	Dr. Keith Claybrook
Aileen Perez	Sociology	Dr. Steven Osuna

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2025-2026 New McNair Cohort & Research Activity

Name	Major	SRIP Mentor
Ashley Rector **Scholarship Awardee:** Crankstart California Community College Transfer Scholarship	Speech-Language Pathology	Dr. Belinda Daughrity
Maria Romero Hernandez	Psychology	Dr. David Whitney
Christian Tapia	Math Applied	Dr. David Illingworth
Sally Vo	Psychology	Dr. Charles Mahony
Ryan Vargas	Psychology	Dr. Briac Halbout
Valery DeLaCruz	Psychology	Dr. Claudia Lopez
Shelly Fonseca	Accounting	Dr. Laura Gonzalez
Heiddy Ussery	Sociology	Dr. Shelly Collins

Alejandro Duran

Viviana Hernandez

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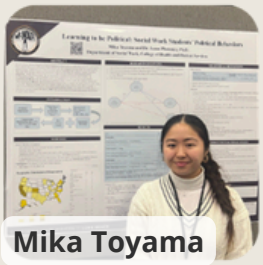
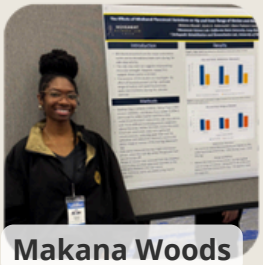
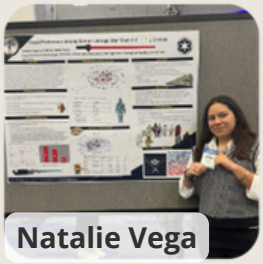
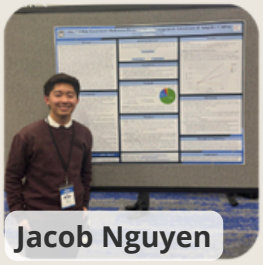
Conferences/Presentations

Conference	Scholar Name	Major
37th annual CSU Biotechnology Symposium	Alejandro Duran	Biochemistry
Western Society of Criminology	Natalie Vega	Psychology
Society for Social Work and Research	Mika Toyama	Social Work
Southwest American College of Sports Medicine Conference	Makana Woods	Kinesiology
Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research	Ali Curiel Silva	Marine Biology
	Maylia Brown	Psychology
	Alejandro Duran	Biochemistry
	Viviana Hernandez	Communication
	Jacob Nguyen	Psychology
	Jose Pineda	Physics
	Mika Toyama	Social Work
	Natalie Vega	Psychology
	Darrell White	Rhetoric
	Makana Woods	Kinesiology

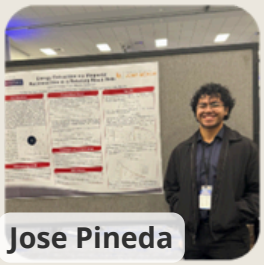

Mika Toyama


Makana Woods


Natalie Vega


Jacob Nguyen

Darrell White


Jose Pineda


Ali Curiel Silva

Interested in joining McNair?

Fill out our student interest form for more details. Our application will open in Fall 2025.
Follow us @Csulb_McNair

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Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)

What is the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program (MMUF) is the centerpiece of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's initiatives to increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. Established in 1988 by William G. Bowen, then the president of the Foundation, and Mellon program associate Henry Drewry, the MMUF program began with an initial cohort of eight member institutions.

MMUF Fellow Highlights

Darya Jafarinejad

Songs Of Freedom: Resilience And Resistance In Ancient Persian Mythology And The "Woman, Life, Freedom" Movement In Iran, with Dr. Azza Basarudin

"This research investigates the interconnection between ancient Persian mythology and Iran's "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, comparing and contrasting gendered resilience through a transnational feminist framework. In my analysis of the linkage between historical stories and contemporary movements, I trace resistance, solidarity-building, and state and intimate violence, among other factors. By recognizing the connections between past and present feminist efforts in Iran, I contend that cultural stories that are reflective of and are reflected by their cultures of origin shape a radical feminist epistemology.

During the Summer and Fall of 2024, I conducted thorough research on the Woman, Life Freedom movement and detailed analysis of the Persian epic, the Shahnameh, searching for the interconnections between the movement and mythology. Recently, I had the opportunity to present at the 37th Student Research Competition at CSULB. I am proud to have received the 2nd place award in the Humanities and Letters category and am grateful for all opportunities I receive to educate others on Iranian feminist resistance to gender apartheid and on Iran's rich, beautiful culture."

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MMUF Fellow Highlights

Lani Chavez

"Gen Z Doesn't Want to Work Anymore: East German Socialism in Fräulein Schmetterling reflected in Modern Sentiments of Work Culture," with Dr. Robert Blankenship

Through a historical analysis of the GDR (East Germany) I compare how attitudes towards labor depicted in the 1966 East German film Miss Butterfly (Fräulein Schmetterling) are paralleled in modern day youth attitudes towards global capitalism.

When applying for the "Scholarship for students attending HBCUs, HSIs, and Tribal Colleges" for the Middlebury Language School in German at Middlebury College in Vermont I wrote about how the immersion school would improve how I conduct research here in CSULB's German program in the Christa Wolf Lab. Beginning my research as a UROP student and continuing it as a Mellon-Mays fellow, I have been conducting undergraduate research for 3 out of the 4 years I have been here at CSULB. Conducting research in a foreign language can prove to be challenging, which is why I am beyond grateful to have won the full ride scholarship from Middlebury in order to improve my German for 7 weeks this summer.

Melanie Sandoval

Central American Studies: An Intellectual History,
with Dr. Steven Osuna

My research outlines an intellectual history of Central American Studies through a trifold analysis of political history, intellectual development, and relationship to institutionalization. Using Antonio Gramsci's concept of an "organic intellectual," I am investigating how Central American intellectuals have been influenced by their lived experiences to excel in academia and develop the discipline of Central American Studies as a way to challenge the existing hegemonic order.

Being involved with research has been completely transformative. Although at times it has been difficult, I have enjoyed every step of the way. Having the opportunity to explore my curiosities with Dr. Osuna, engage with existing literature, and present my findings at conferences has been the greatest pleasure.

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MMUF Fellow Highlights

Alessandra (Alex) Scolastici

“Body, Land, and Capital: The Struggle of Women Farmworkers in the Context of California Agribusiness," with Dr. Roberto Ortiz, Assistant Professor of Sociology

This research project explores the different ways in which capitalism, racism, and gender intersect to create systems of inequality that disproportionally affect women farmworkers and their environment. I analyze how their bodies constitute sites of capital accumulation and environmental justice struggles, exploring how capitalism operates in a way that links women, their bodies, and the environment in a system that not only produces and reproduces capital but simultaneously depletes it and transforms it.

Being an MMUF fellow has given me the opportunity to grow both as a researcher and a scholar. I have attended conferences and presented my work several times, experiences that have deepened my understanding of how to conduct research, challenged me to refine my ideas, and helped me build confidence in my ability to develop original lines of inquiry. The support and training I received through the program, played a major role in my acceptance in the Sociology MA program at Cal State Fullerton. I am excited to continue pursuing my research interests at the graduate level and building on the foundation this fellowship provided.

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Undergraduate Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (U-RISE)

Student	Program Affiliation	Update
Grace Boulos	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Priscilla Ceja	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad! Presenting at the CSULB Honors Symposium
Angelica Cristobal	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: UCSD STARS
Ahira Diaz	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Aden Gomez	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Abby Gregorio	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: UCI SURF Presented with lab partner at UROP Symposium (April 2025)
Nicholas Hoa	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: UCLA SOMA Accepted to present at OSSD 19th Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM (June 202)
Daniel Lopez	U-RISE Scholar	Summer 2025 Grad!
Ethan Lucsik	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad! Presented at ACS Spring 2025 Conference in San Diego, CA (March 2025)
Brooke Morales	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad! Graduate school plans: UCLA Chemistry PhD program
Aran Multani	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Christina Nguyen	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: UCLA SOMA Presented research project at CSULB Psych Day (April 2025)

U-RISE CSULB

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Student	Program Affiliation	Update
Lindsay Odell	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad! Served as a Research Ambassador for the annual CNSM Showcase during Day at the Beach Event
Ilene Ortiz	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Catherine Palm	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: MHRT Program
Kien Pham	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad!
Oshiana Schenkelberg	U-RISE Scholar	Summer plans: B-BRITE at Oregon Health and Science University campus
Maya Wyr	U-RISE Scholar	Spring 2025 Grad! Graduate school plans: UPenn CAMB program

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

Student	Program Affiliation	Update
Shayla Tran	LSAMP Fellow	Spring 2025 Grad! Presented at the CSU Biotech Symposium in Garden Grove, CA (January 2025)
Noah Benasfre	LSAMP Fellow	Presented at Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting at UC Irvine, CA (April 2025)
Pearl Lambarena	LSAMP Fellow	Served as a Research Ambassador for the annual CNSM Showcase during Day at the Beach Event

Competition Participation

The LSAMP and U-RISE students participated in an infographics competition on March 28, 2025. Students submitted infographics spanning lab protocols and safety, to outreach posters, graphical abstracts, and journal cover art. 4 students wowed CNSM faculty and Development Office judges with their creativity. Congratulations to Noah Benasfre (LSAMP) Abby Gregorio (U-RISE), Amaris Guevara (U-RISE), and Daisy Salmeron (LSAMP).

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Keck Undergraduate Research Experiences (KURE) Incubator

What is KURE

The Keck Undergraduate Research Experiences (KURE) Incubator program infuses our curriculum with authentic research experiences in key lower division laboratory courses. We make these experiences available to all freshmen and sophomore science students.

KURE is one way our college has taken on the work of the Beach2030 strategic plan. Key priorities of the plan include becoming a Student-Ready University (i.e., evolving teaching and learning modalities to ensure we are ready for growing non-traditional learner populations) and Promoting Intellectual Achievement, using research to amplify student learning and enhance student retention and success.

As a minority-serving institution with a historical commitment and record of support for the advancement of underrepresented populations, we are poised to succeed in this endeavor. Moreover, CSULB's strategic priorities align with Foundation interests:

- Helping 1st-generation and low-income students graduate by supporting student success programs, and
- Providing opportunities for students to explore concepts and careers in STEM fields.

Research Opportunities

KURE offers the following programs the 1st- and 2nd-year students:

- KURE Summer Bridge Program (SBP) is for high school students who are planning to enroll in a science or math major at CSULB or 1st- or 2nd-year students majoring in science or math at CSULB. Participating students will be part of a team conducting research on environmental toxins that are common in household items or products, then joining a CNSM faculty lab for the summer internship.
- KURE Research in Semester (RIS) is a semester-long research experience for students who are in their 1st or 2nd year at CSULB. In this program, students will meet once a week for 3 hours for 8 weeks, to conduct research on environmental toxins that are common in household items or products.

Applications NOW OPEN!

The KURE Summer Bridge Program (SBP) is for high school students who are planning to enroll in a science or math major at CSULB or 1st- or 2nd-year students majoring in science or math at CSULB. Participating students will be part of a team conducting research on environmental toxins that are common in household items or products, then joining a CNSM faculty lab for the summer internship.

Deadline to apply is May 19, 2025.

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37th Annual Student Research Competition (SRC)

What is SRC

The purpose of the Annual Student Research Competition is to showcase excellence in scholarly research, and highlight creative activity conducted by CSULB undergraduate and graduate students. The Student Research Competition features oral presentations to an audience of fellow students, university community members, and a jury of distinguished faculty. Each year, the Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) and Graduate Studies at CSULB collaborate to host this event, showcasing student innovation and fostering collaborations.

CSULB Winners

1st Place Winners

- **Emily Siu** – Behavioral and Social Sciences
- **Anthony Rios** – Biological and Agricultural Sciences
- **Luis Lara & Polo Zahir Rodriguez** – Creative Arts and Design
- **Emily Ramon** – Education
- **Nhaya Jimenez & Bence Papp** – Engineering and Computer Sciences
- **Annie Lin** – Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences
- **Kass Malcor**– Humanities and Letters
- **Isaac Obert** – Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Systemwide at Cal Poly Humboldt

1st Place Winner: Annie Lin – Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences

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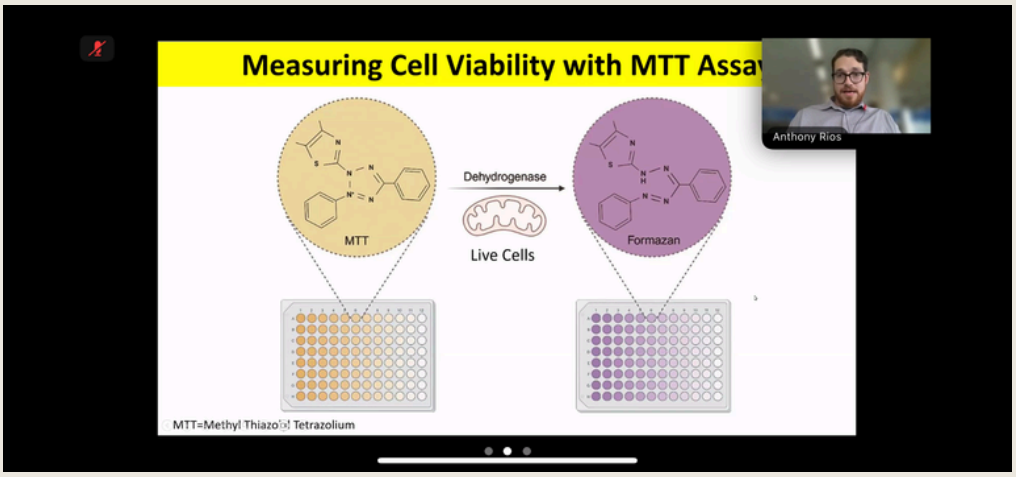
SRC at Systemwide - Moments Captured



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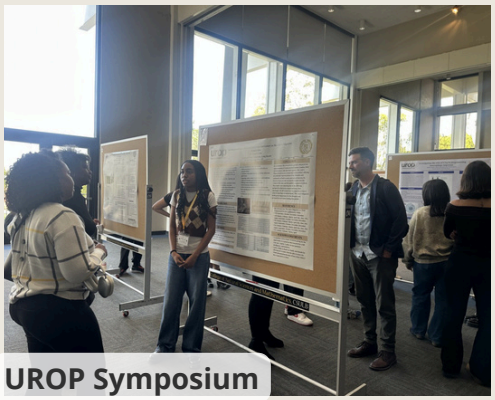
Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity

The Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) 5th annual event took place on April 14 - 18, 2025. This event highlighted some of the amazing work being done across the CSULB campus by students, staff, and faculty. We hope to show the immense value and importance that the projects have not only on the campus but also within local communities. There were numerous opportunities to meet with presenters, have dialogues regarding various scientific and social topics, and network with members from various disciplines across CSULB. The Week of RSCA encourages everyone to not only engage with the sessions that are related to their own disciplines but also attend and engage with those that are outside of their own disciplines.

Understanding Human Movement



UROP Symposium

IDRL SnapStudio

Meet the Librarians

Green Generation Showcase

CSI at CSULB

Museum Research Practices

Psych Day

Summer Student Research Assistantship

Autism Research Group

Thank you for reading the OURS Spring 2025 Newsletter!

See you in the Summer!