



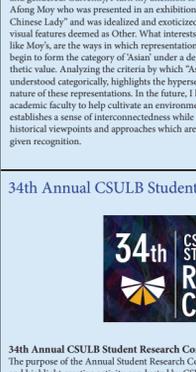
Office of Undergraduate Research Services Newsletter - Spring 2022

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INTRODUCTION TO THE OURS NEWSLETTER

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.



End of the Spring 2022 Semester: As we near the end of the semester, we would like to commend all students, staff, and faculty for the work you do as part of the various undergraduate research programs. Congratulations to all students who have had good luck in your future endeavors to the CSULB Class of 2022. For our new and continuing students, we look forward to working with you all this summer and hopefully returning to campus for the fall semester.

OURS Office: OURS has been working in-person to serve undergraduate students interested in participating in research. Please visit us at SSSC-120 to ask us any questions you may have about undergraduate research, meeting with a peer advisor, or information about upcoming undergraduate research workshops.

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CSULB.OURS.Website

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF)

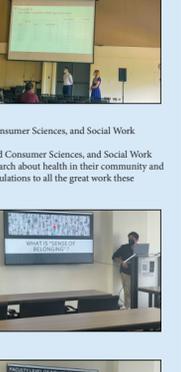


What is MMUF? The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) Program is the centerpiece of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's initiatives to increase diversity in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. Established in 1988 by William G. Bowen, then the president of the Foundation, and Mellon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

MMUF Goal and Objectives The fundamental objective of MMUF is to address, over time, the problem of underrepresentation in the academy at the level of college and university faculties – specifically, faculties in the humanities and selected social sciences. This goal can be achieved both by increasing the number of students from underrepresented minority groups (URM) who pursue PhDs and by supporting the pursuit of PhDs by students who may not come from traditional minority groups but have otherwise demonstrated a commitment to the goals of MMUF. The MMUF program is designed to encourage fellows to enter PhD programs that prepare students for professional careers in the humanities and selected social sciences; it is not intended to support students who intend to go on to medical school, law school, or other professional schools.

Eligibility and Application To apply you must have sophomore standing or be a first-year transfer, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, plan to begin or complete a doctoral degree in one of the Mellon-approved fields of study, and have a completed application consisting of two strong letters of recommendation from faculty, transcripts, writing sample, and resume/CV. Please contact mmuf@csulb.edu if you have any questions about applying to the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship.

Kelli Nakamura: My name is Kelli Nakamura and I am a third year student studying Asian American Studies in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) at California State University, Long Beach. I am a member of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF) and University Honors Program (UHP). My research interests include media representation, transnational migration, and Asian American political participation. After graduating from CSULB, I plan to earn a PhD and eventually teach in the humanities. This April, I presented at the Western Regional Honors Council Conference (WRHCCC), hosted by the Honors College at the University of New Mexico. I titled my talk "Constructing Complex Identities as Chinese Adoptees" – furthermore, I analyzed identity formation among transnational Chinese adoptees. Next fall, I plan to apply to PhD programs. I will also continue my research journey through the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.



Demetrius Tien: As a student hoping to pursue doctoral study in history, I hope to research the ways in which "Asian" identities as category with the advent of modernity. While this category is tied to race, I explore the ways in which formation is sexualized and gendered. Currently, I turn my attention to the case of Along Mo who was presented in an exhibit titled "The Chinese Lady" and was idealized and exoticized for her visual features deemed as Other. What interests me in cases like Mo's are the ways in which representations like hers establish a sense of "Asian" identity and how they have become understood categorically; highlights the hypersexual and exotic nature of these representations. In the future, I hope to serve as academic faculty to help create an environment that is more inclusive and establishes a sense of interconnectedness while highlighting historical viewpoints and approaches which are not always given recognition.



34th Annual CSULB Student Research Competition Winners



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 featured oral presentations to an audience of fellow students, university community members, and a jury of distinguished faculty. For more information visit the [CSULB SRC Website](http://CSULB.SRC.Website).

CSULB Student Research Competition Winners

- Engineering and Computer Science - **Kunal Sarhaya and Cory Arnold**
- Behavioral and Social Sciences (two winners) - **Alice Hanson**
- Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences - **Makena Pollock**
- Physical and Mathematical Sciences - **Nicholas Lozano**
- Education - **Mashandra Jones**
- Humanities and Letters - **Vaishalee Chaudhary***
- Biological and Agricultural Sciences (two winners) - **Matt Acosta**
- Biological and Agricultural Sciences (two winners) - **Emma Siegfried***

Note: Asterisks denote participants that also placed in the CSU Statewide Student Research Competition



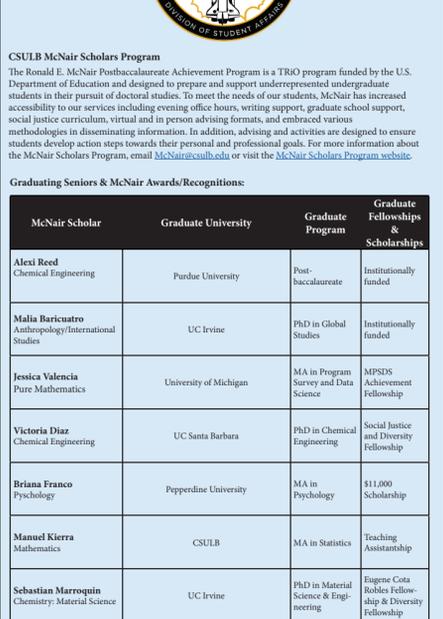
Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) 2022



The 2nd Annual Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) took place April 18th - 20th and highlighted the amazing work currently being done across the CSULB campus by students, staff, and faculty. As such, with the development of the 2022 event, the Week of RSCA will become an annual event on campus that will grow with each year that follows; placing spotlights on all of the knowledge and work produced at CSULB. Here are some of the presentations that took place during Week of RSCA 2022. For more photos of the event visit [CSULB Website](http://CSULB.Website) or visit the [CSULB RSCA 2022 Website](http://CSULB.RSCA2022.Website).

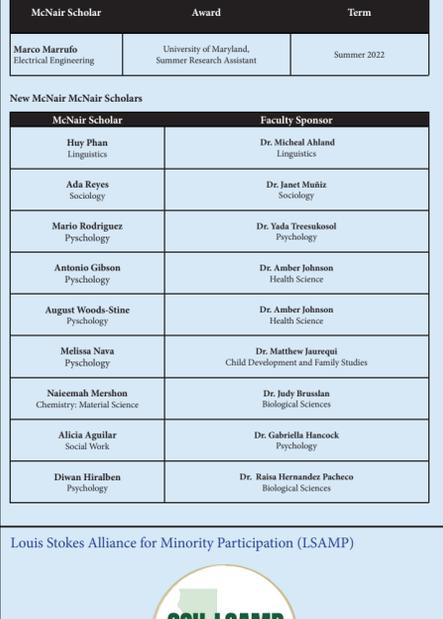
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Symposium

OURS hosted the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Symposium which highlighted the exceptional research UROP students have worked on all year with their faculty mentors. For more information about UROP and OURS, please visit the [CSULB OURS Website](http://CSULB.OURS.Website).



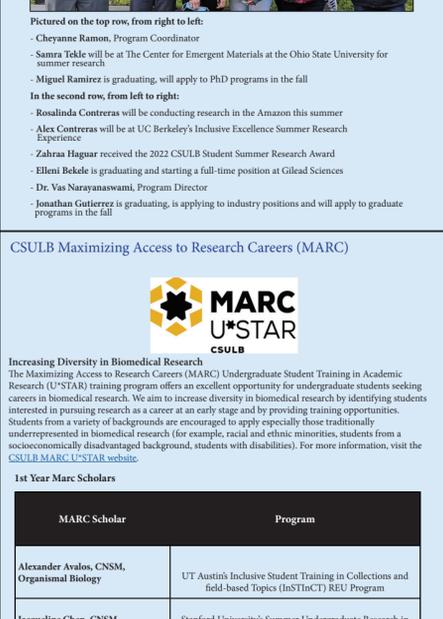
Health and Wellness Oral Presentations

The Kinesiology, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Social Work Departments collaborated to share the work of their students regarding health in the Health and Wellness Oral Presentations event.



Health Equity Oral Presentations

The Health Sciences, Health Care Administration, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Social Work Departments provided their students to present on their research about health in their community and how we can better serve the communities we live in. Congratulations to all the great work these presenters have done over the past year.



Undergraduate Research (Poster Presentations)

BUILD held a poster presentation event where students presented the research, they have been working on over the past year with their faculty mentors, peers, family, and family. Congratulations to these students who are contributing their perspectives and experiences in their field of study.



Outcomes of Interdisciplinary Experiential Learning for Racial/Ethnic Minority Students in CHHS

The College of Health and Human Services highlighted the scholarly work of Dr. Melawly J. Garcia surrounding the adoption of health promotion programs to address Latino Childhood Obesity.

Summer Student Research Assistantship Panel

The Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) held a student panel featuring the While working as the Summer Research Assistantship program, my research interests have been working on under the supervision of their faculty mentors. This program is designed to encourage student participation in a broad range of scholarly and academic activities and to open to eligible undergraduates and graduates from all disciplines and academic areas of study.

Topics in Social Justice and Aging

Students from multiple CSULB departments such as Gerontology, Social Work, Criminal Justice, Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Sciences & Nursing engaged attendees in examining opportunities and challenges of achieving social justice across disciplines.

Showcasing of Volterra one PCB Maker

Dr. Ava Helyatpour from the Electrical Engineering Department showcased the development of Prototype Board (PCB) involving a timer 555 that can make an LED blink.

Circuit & Coding Challenge

The Electrical Engineering Department hosted a virtual coding and circuit design competition with teams made of 2-3 students utilizing Arduino coding.

Translation at the Beach

On the final day of Week of RSCA, Russian Languages and Literatures hosted by the Department of Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures to practice in translation and the experiences they have developed through global literacy to communicate, present, and interpret ideas through oral and written texts.

Engineering Girls @ The Beach

For the Society of Women Engineers' event, girls from multiple schools gathered at CSULB for Engineering Girls @ the Beach Day, an event hosted by the Society of Women Engineers, which centered on multiple activities and speakers of the Society of Women Engineers to help inspire the future generation of women engineers.

Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) Connects Student Highlight

OURS Connects research assistants work with faculty mentors in various fields. One of the OURS Connects students, Mikayla Winifrey assisted her faculty mentor, Dr. Keith Claybrook in the Africana Studies department with transcribing interviews, conducting literature reviews, and providing her feedback on their research from a student's perspective. Winifrey was generous in providing us with an interview asking about her experience in collaborating with her faculty mentor on a recent publication and her contribution to the work in her field.

Mikayla Winifrey, African Studies

M. Keith Claybrook, Jr., Ph.D., Associate Professor, Africana Studies

What are some roles and responsibilities you have taken on as a research assistant while working with Dr. Claybrook? Dr. Claybrook Jr. was given the opportunity to assist in an ongoing project that we would share with each other on the literature that informed the article, as well as how it reflected in the story of Mr. Turner and his achievements. I additionally helped to transcribe zoom meetings and voice recordings. I would read drafts and provide the student perspective and discuss the article from such a perspective.

How have you enjoyed your undergraduate research assistant role as part of the Connects program? I have a greater enjoyment working with Dr. Claybrook; the role of undergraduate research assistant has given me a really perspective as well as shown me what I am capable of and how much more I have to learn. The experience can be difficult to stay on top of my responsibilities, writing support, graduate school, and faculty. This time was spending and just enjoying the opportunity of being a research assistant!

How has your undergraduate research experience helped you in your classes or career insights? This undergraduate research experience helped me in my classes because it worked to help me become a better communicator and better elaborate on my thoughts, which would translate into the work that I submitted in my classes. My career insights have been aided because it has shown me all the work that goes into published articles and what to expect if and when I earn a Ph.D.

What are your future goals, extending beyond OURS Connect? My future goals are to earn my single subject credential, a master's degree in history, and finally a Ph.D. This is all as a means to attain the career goal of working at my Alma mater, Garden Grove High School and hopefully going back in one of the African American Studies Department's leadership aspirations, but they keep me busy!

How does it feel to have been part of a published research article? To have been part of a published research article feels affirming and rewarding. It is something that I can put on my curriculum vitae and something that I can proudly share with my family who supports me in my academic endeavors.

McNair Scholars Program Update

CSULB McNair Scholars Program The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and designed to prepare and support underrepresented undergraduate students in their pursuit of doctoral studies. To meet the needs of our students, McNair has increased accessibility to our services including evening office hours, writing support, graduate school, and faculty. social justice curriculum, virtual and in person advising formats, and embraced various methodologies in disseminating information. In addition, advising and activities are designed to ensure students develop action steps towards their personal and professional goals. For more information about the McNair Scholars Program, email McNair@csulb.edu or visit the [McNair Scholars Program Website](http://McNair.Scholars@Program.Website).

Graduating Seniors & McNair Awards/Recognitions

McNair Scholar	Graduate University	Graduate Program	Graduate Fellowships & Scholarships
Alexei Reed Chemical Engineering	Purdue University	Post-baccalaureate	Institutionally funded
Madih Oudricoube Anthropology/International Studies	UC Irvine	PhD in Global Studies	Institutionally funded
Jessica Valencia Pure Mathematics	University of Michigan	MA in Program Survey and Data Science	MPDS Achievement Fellowship
Victoria Diaz Chemistry: Material Science	UC Santa Barbara	PhD in Chemical Engineering	Social Justice and Diversity Fellowship
Brianna Franco Psychology	Pepperdine University	MA in Psychology	\$11,000 Scholarship
Manuel Kierra Mathematics	CSULB	MA in Statistics	Teaching Assistantship
Selwyn M. Rodriguez Chemistry: Material Science	UC Irvine	PhD in Material Science & Engineering	Engene Cota Robles Fellowship & Diversity Fellowship
Cynthia Ray Social Work	CSULB	MA in Social Work	Work funding
Alezie Simpkins Psychology	Workforce		
Josna Barceyona Psychology	Workforce		
Rae (Rihab) Boumzoug Psychology	Workforce		
Andrew Chandar History	Workforce		
Ulises Guzman Mathematics	Workforce		

Continuing McNair McNair Scholars

McNair Scholar	Award	Term
Marco Marrero Electrical Engineering	University of Maryland, Summer Research Assistant	Summer 2022

New McNair McNair Scholars

McNair Scholar	Faculty Sponsor
Huyen Phuan Linguistics	Dr. Michael Aliland Linguistics
Ada Reyes Sociology	Dr. Janet Muñiz Sociology
Mario Rodriguez Psychology	Dr. Yada Treenskosi Psychology
Antonio Gibson Psychology	Dr. Amber Johnson Health Science
August Woods-Stine Psychology	Dr. Amber Johnson Health Science
Melissa Nava Psychology	Dr. Matthew Jantregul Child Development and Family Studies
Naiemah Mershon Chemistry: Material Science	Dr. Judy Bruslan Biological Sciences
Alicia Aguilar Social Work	Dr. Gabriella Hancock Psychology
Divan Hiralben Psychology	Dr. Raissa Hernandez Pacheco Biological Sciences

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)



CSULB LSAMP The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program at California State University Long Beach is part of the statewide effort CSU-LSAMP to enhance the math and science skills of students who have faced a partial, educational, or economic barriers, and are majoring in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM). For more information on eligibility, applying, or the LSAMP experience, visit the [CSULB LSAMP Website](http://CSULB.LSAMP.Website).

CSULB LSAMP Fellows



Pictured on the top row, from right to left:
- Shamya Ramon, Program Coordinator
- Camra Tekle will be at the Center for Emergent Materials at the Ohio State University for summer research
- Miguel Ramirez is graduating, will apply to PhD programs in the fall
- In the second row, from left to right:
- Basulianna Contreras will be conducting research in the Amazon this summer
- Alicia Contreras will be at UC Berkeley's Inclusive Excellence Summer Research
- Zahara Hagar received the 2022 CSULB Student Summer Research Award
- Elvini Bekele is graduating and starting a full-time position at Gillet Sciences
- Dr. Vas Narayanaswami, Program Director
- Jonathan Gutierrez is graduating, is applying to industry positions and will apply to graduate programs in the fall

Increasing Diversity in Biomedical Research

The Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U-STAR) training program offers an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students seeking careers in biomedical research. We aim to increase diversity in biomedical research by identifying students interested in pursuing research as a career at an early stage and by providing training opportunities. Students from a variety of backgrounds are encouraged to apply and especially those traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research (i.e. ethnic/racial and ethnic minorities, students from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background, students with disabilities). For more information, visit the [CSULB MARC USTAR Website](http://CSULB.MARC.USTAR.Website).

1st Year Marc Scholars

MARC Scholar	Program
Alexander Avalos, CNSM, Organismal Biology	UT Austin's Inclusive Student Training in Collections and field-based Topics (INSTICT) REU Program
Jacqueline Chen, CNSM, Chemistry	Stanford University's Summer Engineering Research in Geoscience and Engineering Program
Christy Nguyen, CNSM Biochemistry	UCI's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program this summer
Madeleine Phan, CNSM Biochemistry	UCI's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program this summer
Bryan Skorka, CNSM, Chemistry	UCSF's Summer Research Training Program



Alexander Avalos, CNSM, Organismal Biology; Jacqueline Chen, CNSM, Chemistry; Christy Nguyen, CNSM, Biochemistry; Madeleine Phan, CNSM, Biochemistry; Bryan Skorka, CNSM, Chemistry

2nd Year Marc Scholars

MARC Scholar	Program
Tina Nguyen, CNSM, Chemistry	Applying to postbaccalaureate and masters' programs
Mariana Leyva, CNSM, Biology	Graduating this Fall 2022 with a B.S. in Biology
Mario Garcia Paez, CNSM, Molecular Cell Biology/Physiology	Incoming PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biological and Biomedical Sciences at Vanderbilt University
Simon Chan, CNSM, Molecular Cell Biology/Physiology	Incoming PhD student in the Molecular and Cell Biology Program at UC Berkeley



Tina Nguyen, CNSM, Chemistry; Mariana Leyva, CNSM, Biology; Mario Garcia Paez, CNSM, Molecular Cell Biology/Physiology; Simon Chan, CNSM, Molecular Cell Biology/Physiology

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