Despite the unexpected obstacles we have faced as a school and a community, we are confident in the continued success of our students as they look to build for the future. In this Spring 2020 End of Semester Newsletter provided by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Engagement (CURCE), you will find a celebration of success and accomplishment of our past Awards Winners for the 2019-2020 Academic Year, "thank you's" for all of the generous support our students have received, an exciting opportunity for students to become involved in our work, a farewell to our amazing graduating 2019-2020 Ambassadors, and current news on research to further support your academic endeavors.

Congratulations to all of the 2020 Graduates, and we look forward to celebrating as one!
Award Winners

Situation Prize for Research Winners:

Nurat Affinnih – Optical Activation of GABA Release from D2-Medium Spiny Neurons
Faculty Advisor: Annalisa Scimemi, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Deborah Ariyibi – Analysis of mouse genomic DNA using polymerase chain reaction and gel electrophoresis
Faculty Advisor: Annalisa Scimemi, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Emily Copertino – Remembering Strangers: A Look Into the Production Effect and Face-Name Associations
Faculty Advisor: Jeanette Altarriba, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Caleb Levine – The effects of metformin on high-fat diet-induced cognitive impairment and neuroinflammation
Faculty Advisor: Ewan McNay, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Meghan Pannone – The Silence of Women: The Trauma and Oppression of Women in Communist States
Faculty Advisor: Camelia Lenart, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History

Sharon Shaughnessy – Sex-based Differences in Alternative Splicing in Patients with Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1
Faculty Advisor: Andrew Berglund, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Jalissa Thomas – Detection and Age Estimation of Body Fluids on Interfering Substrates using Raman spectroscopy and HAMAND
Faculty Advisor: Igor Lednev, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Chemistry

Kathryn Ting – Container Glass Analysis: Reconstructing African American Lifeways at the Stephen and Harriet Meyers Site in Albany, NY
Faculty Advisor: Marilyn Masson, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology

Mark Verenich – Dosing RBFOX1 to assess endogenous splicing
Faculty Advisor: Andrew Berglund, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Sorrell Chesin Research Award Winners:

Carmalena Cordi – Angiocrine Factor Profiling for Salivary Gland Regeneration
Faculty Advisor: Melinda Larsen, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Caleb Levine – The effects of metformin on high-fat diet-induced cognitive impairment and neuroinflammation
Faculty Advisor: Ewan McNay, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Le Gia Cat Pham – Glutamine Antagonist 6-diazo-5-oxo-L-norleucine (DON) slows Triple Negative Breast Cancer growth by inhibition of hyaluronan synthesis
Faculty Advisor: JoEllen Welsh, School of Public Health, Cancer Research Center

Mark Verenich – Dosing RBFOX1 to assess endogenous splicing
Faculty Advisor: Andrew Berglund, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences
Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research Recipients:

David Allen - Where Green Men, Shifty Lads, and Edward Waverley Collide: The Exoticizing of Scotland in 19th-Century Highland Folklore
Faculty Advisor: Kir Kuiken, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English

Pranjal Atrey - Passive Microwave Remote Sensing of the Cryosphere
Faculty Advisor: Mustafa Aksoy, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Thomas Banco - Quantification of DNA base-stacking energy at single-molecule level
Faculty Advisor: Ken Halvorsen, The RNA Institute

Faculty Advisor: Anne Hildreth, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Department of Political Science

Anthony Capece - Cyber Innovation Lab - A Cybersecurity Testbed for the advancement of intrusion detection systems
Faculty Advisor: Sanjay Goel, School of Business, Department of Information Security & Digital Forensics

Jeff Doherty - The Internal Changes of the Guardia di Finanza: 2005 to 2015
Faculty Advisor: Brian Nussbaum, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

Nicholas Dorthe - “No French Laws! No Popery!”: How Anti-Catholicism Unified the Public during the American Revolution
Faculty Advisor: Christopher Pastore & Maeve Kane, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of History

Rachel Freeman - Animal Use at the Pre-Columbian Maya Urban Capital of Mayapan, Yucatan, Mexico
Faculty Advisor: Marilyn Masson, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Anthropology

Cassandra Kane - A year of pediatric injury prevention on Instagram
Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Manganello, School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior

Kara Laflamme - Role of RNA modifications on gametogenesis
Faculty Advisor: Prashanth Rangan, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Joel Lopez - The Venezuelan Refugee Crisis: A Consequence of U.S. Economic Sanctions
Faculty Advisor: Christine Vassallo-Oby, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies

Alyse McAlpine - Derivatives Use and Risk Taking: Evidence from Alternative Mutual Funds
Faculty Advisor: Ying Wang, School of Business, Department of Finance

Kayda Melnitsky - Behavioral Effects of Early Postpartum Offspring Removal in Rats
Faculty Advisor: Joanna Workman, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Emily O’Halloran - Correlates of Compliance in Community Diversion Programs
Faculty Advisor: Alissa Worden, School of Criminal Justice

Cont. On Next Page
Sophia Patka - The Relationship Between Political Ideologies and College
Faculty Advisor: Zsofia Barta, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Department of Political Science & Anna Newheiser, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Psychology

Hayley Peterson - Operational Code Analysis: Assessing Leadership Behavior in International Relations
Faculty Advisor: Michael Young, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

Tamika Ramos-Ungewitter - Empowering and Enhancing the Strengths of Transition Age Youth (Foster Care) through Trauma-Informed Practices
Faculty Advisor: Lani Jones, School of Social Welfare

Chloe Ross - The Transformation of Grendel’s Mother through Translations and Adaptations of “Beowulf”
Faculty Advisor: Helene Scheck, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English

Anthony Scalise - A diachronic study of Iberian leismo from the 13th to the 20th centuries
Faculty Advisor: Sara Zahler, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Sharon Shaughnessy - Gender differences in alternative splicing in myotonic dystrophy
Faculty Advisor: Andrew Berglund, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

Javier Vilcapoma - Toward tailored biostability of DNA nanostructures
Faculty Advisor: Ken Halvorsen, The RNA Institute

Ian Walter - Deep Learning Based Optical Camera Communications
Faculty Advisor: Hany Elgala, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Arielle Westcott - Girls in Wonderland: Gender in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland & Spirited Away
Faculty Advisor: Laura Tetreault, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of English

Hyun Ah Yoon - RACK1 facilitates cap-independent translation of polyA-leader sequences
Faculty Advisor: Gabriele Fuchs, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences

CONGRATULATIONS
to all of our awardees!

A special THANK YOU to our donors, and review committees
Jeanette Altarriba, interim Dean College of Arts and Sciences
Michael Baumgardner, Director of Student Success College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity
Damian Bazadona ‘98, President and Founder Situation and Donor
Sorrell Chesin, Vice President Emeritus and Donor
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Dayna Newton, Academic and Administrative Coordinator for Human Development Major
Robert Osuna, Associate Professor Biological Sciences
Hilary Weiner, Assistant Professor Marketing
Qiang Zhang, Assistant Professor Chemistry
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CURCE AMBASSADOR?

Submit the CURCE Ambassador Application today (click here)!

If you have questions, please email UGR@albany.edu

Congrats to the CURCE Ambassador Class of 2020 Graduates!
Nurat Affinnih
Thomas Banco
Petar Gajic
Madeline Illenberg
Ankeith Illiparambil
Matthew Pascazi
Hayley Peterson
Peri Sosensky
Anthony Testo
Shouyue Zhang

Special congrats CURCE Graduate Assistant, Dr. Deana Vitrano, on the successful completion of her PhD program!

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED VIRTUALLY?
Stay tuned for some exciting CURCE developments and brand new resources to assist your research journey!

The CURCE Ambassadors are an important part of the CURCE Team. They provide support at events and workshops, help develop new ideas for programs and services, and represent CURCE throughout the year. Our Ambassadors come from all different majors and academic interests, and help motivate students to find their own passion through research!
UALBANY RESEARCHERS ARE GIVEN THE SEEDS TO FIGHT COVID-19

The SUNY Research Foundation awarded seed funding to 10 collaborative UAlbany research teams — which include 37 investigators from 20 departments and centers — so they may continue their work addressing COVID-related challenges. UAlbany researchers are studying the biology of the virus, the role weather plays in its transmission, rapid testing, the social, psychological and economic implications of COVID-19, the roles official communication and individual decision-making play in the pandemic and methods to address widespread food insecurity.

RNA SCIENTIST RECEIVES NSF FUNDING FOR RAPID CORONAVIRUS TESTING

Ken Halvorsen, a senior research scientist at the RNA Institute, was awarded more than $177,000 in funding from the National Science Foundation’s Rapid Response Research program to develop a rapid coronavirus test.