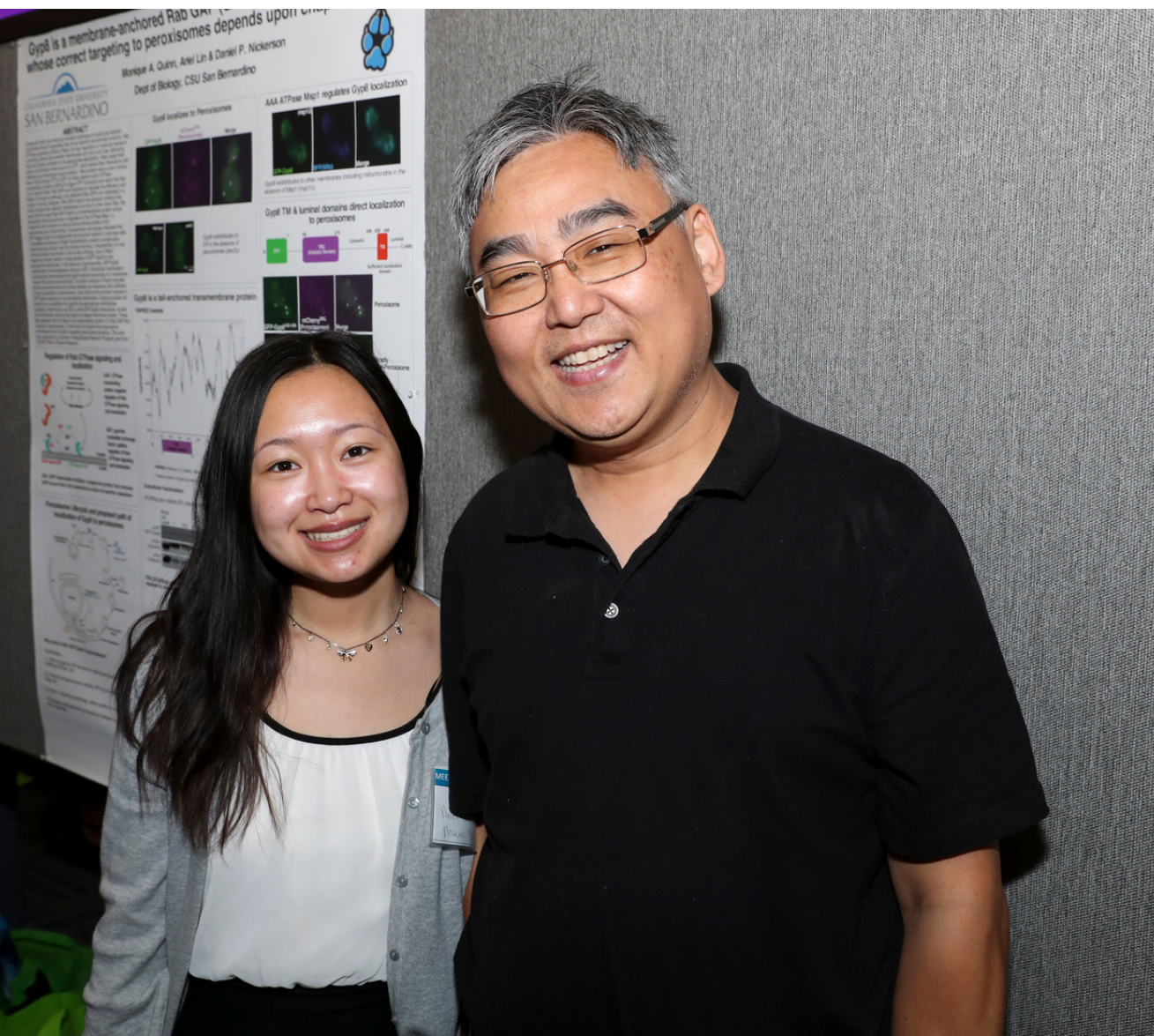


California State University, San Bernardino
Office of Student Research



Spring 2021

NEWSLETTER



Issue 05

Office of Student Research

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME



Dr. Ryan Keating
Professor of History
Director, Office of Student Research

As we conclude the 2020-2021 academic year, the Office of Student Research (OSR) would like to congratulate all of the students, faculty, and staff at CSUSB on another productive and successful year. We are grateful for your support of our office, and the students and faculty we serve.

This has been an exceptional year and time for our campus, community, and country. However, the stories that are forever impressed upon me are those that exhibit resilience, strength, courage, and community. Over the last year, and in spite of the limitations placed on our community by the COVID-19 crisis, we were able to continue to award grant monies to support the research and creative activities of our undergraduate and graduate students. More than 140 students presented their work at our virtual 10th annual 'Meeting of the Minds' *Student Research Symposium*, forty students participated in the CSUSB Student Research Competition and one of those students, Edward Zakher (p. 15) went on to win first place at the CSU System Wide Student Research Competition at Cal Poly Pomona.

To me, the continuation of research, scholarly, and creative activities—and the ways in which our students and faculty found ways to continue their work in spite of various restrictions and lack of access—speaks to the level of dedication and commitment that you all have to your work, your peers and mentors, and this campus. I am humbled by the perseverance of our campus community and daily in awe of the amazing work that you are all engaging in.

Have a great summer break,

Dr. Ryan Keating,
Director, OSR

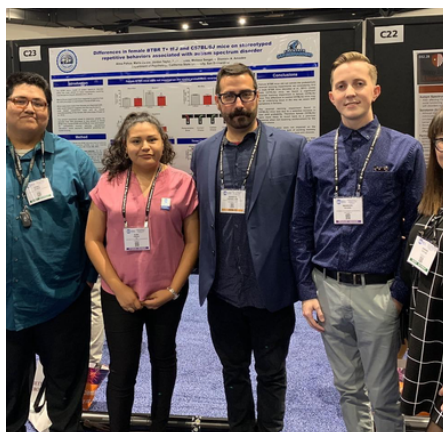
Faculty Mentors

CSUSB faculty have continuously shown their commitment to their students in numerous ways. Thank you to the mentors who have continued to guide their students' curiosity throughout the academic year.

Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb
Dr. Alejandro Garcia
Dr. Alison Petty Ragguette
Dr. Amanda Rymal
Dr. Amy Van Schagen
Dr. Andre Harrington
Dr. Angela Horner
Dr. Angela Penaredondo
Dr. Becky Talyn
Dr. Benjamin Becerra
Dr. Bradley Spence
Dr. Breanna Putman
Dr. Brett Stanley
Dr. Brittany Bloodhart
Dr. Cari Goetz
Dr. Cary Barber
Dr. Christina Hassija
Dr. Craig Seal
Dr. Cynthia Crawford
Dr. Daniel Nickerson
Dr. David Chavez
Dr. David Marshall
Dr. David Rhoads
Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog
Dr. Dennis Amodeo
Dr. Donna Garcia
Dr. Edwin Hernandez
Dr. Eric Berru
Dr. Esther Gomez
Dr. Eugene Wong
Dr. Fadi Muheidat
Dr. Isabel Alonso
Dr. Jacob Jones
Dr. Janet Chang
Dr. Janet Kottke

Dr. Jason Burke
Dr. Jason Reimer
Dr. Jeremy Dodsworth
Dr. Jeremy Mallari
Dr. John Clapper
Dr. John Reitzel
Dr. John Sweeney
Dr. Jose Munoz
Dr. Joseph Heras
Dr. Julie Taylor
Dr. Karen Rowan
Dr. Kassandra Harding
Dr. Kate Liszka
Dr. Kate Simonian
Dr. Kelly Campbell
Dr. Kevin Grisham
Dr. Kimberly Cousins
Dr. Laura Newcomb
Dr. Laura Wallace
Dr. Leslie Amodeo
Dr. Lewis Schneider
Dr. Lisa Looney
Dr. Lua Lopez Perez
Dr. Luba Levin-Banchik
Dr. Manpreet Dhillon Brar
Dr. Maria Santos
Dr. Mark Agars
Dr. Matteo Crismani
Dr. Melika Kordrostami
Dr. Michael Chao
Dr. Michael Lewin
Dr. Mihaela Popescu
Dr. Miranda McIntyre
Dr. Nasrin Mohabbati

Dr. Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis
Dr. Nicole Dabbs
Dr. Nicole Henley
Dr. Priyanka Yalamanchili
Dr. Qingquan Sun
Dr. Rajrani Kalra
Dr. Robert Nelson
Dr. Roderick O'Handley
Dr. Ryan Keating
Dr. Salome Kapella-Mshigeni
Dr. Sanders McDougall
Dr. Sang Ouk Wee
Dr. Sara Callori
Dr. Stacy Forcino
Dr. Stacy Morris
Dr. Stephanie Schneider
Dr. Thomas Corrigan
Dr. Thomas Davis
Dr. Timothy Usher
Dr. Tomasz Owerkowicz
Dr. Xavier Espinoza
Dr. Yan Zhang
Dr. Yasemin Dildar
Dr. Yvette Lopez
Dr. Zhaojing Chen





Dr. Benjamin Becerra, Assistant Professor
Information and Decision Sciences

Each year, the OSR recognizes a faculty who has shown exemplary work and mentoring achievements in their field and among the coyote pack. This year we would like to highlight the work of Dr. Benjamin Becerra, an assistant professor of Information and Decision Sciences.

1. Tell us about yourself! What inspired you to study Information and Decision Sciences and go into academia?

That's a great question. Umm, well, it started because I found out that you can play video games on computers when I was about 15, so I bugged my parents to get a computer (because I needed it for school of course). Initially when something went wrong with the computer, my parents would take it to a computer repair shop, and all they did was wipe it clean each

time... I quickly learned it was better to try to fix my own computer rather than lose all my video game save files each time ☹️. From there I learned how to use DOS and Windows, install computer hardware, basic networking to play games over 14.4k modem speeds (go google what that is, LOL), setup an FTP server to do file sharing (before the days of Google Drive), and some extra stuff from hanging around nerdy internet relay chat rooms. Basically, it started as one of my hobbies for fun with my friends. But that's not how I went into academia... My earliest hobby was actually learning about plants and botany (since I was 5 years old), and so that was what I chose for my undergraduate major at Cal Poly Pomona.

I love learning about stuff, but to tell you the truth I didn't really have much of a career trajectory; I was just taking classes because it was fun! Well, as a first-gen college student, I didn't really understand college other than as a place you take classes and get grades... So much of what was said regarding it flew over my head, now that I think about it. I didn't even know the difference between an undergraduate and a graduate (I thought you are a graduate student when you graduated as a student...). Someone said their professor was on sabbatical and I thought they were at church or something. Anyways, one day a friend of a friend at UC Riverside told me about some Summer "plant program" and they thought I would like it since I was all into plants. So I said sure, and I applied to whatever that was and got in. Well, turns out I got into an NSF-Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. I still didn't know what that was, but anyways, I accepted and moved into UCR dorms (the newest ones at the time!) and for 10 weeks had such a blast learning about how to do plant molecular biology and genetics research with many new friends from around the country and world. Immediately I knew my future would be as a professor in academia, because that meant I could be doing this every day of my life! Takeaway is: I would NEVER have thought I'd go into research unless I had tried it out.

2. Where did you attend graduate school?

Where didn't I attend grad school? Master of Science in Plant Biology at UC Riverside, Master of Public Health Biostatistics at Loma Linda University, Doctor of Public Health in Epidemiology at Loma Linda University, MBA Entrepreneurship at CSUSB, & finishing up a Masters in Information & Data Science at UC Berkeley right now.

3. Tell us about your research interests and your current work at CSUSB

My research interests focus on minority health disparities using my interdisciplinary training with data analytics and

Leading the Pack: Dr. Benjamin Becerra

data science. I also do research on teaching effectiveness and pedagogy too, and am open to other fields as well. A LOT of research will need someone who understands research methods, data analytics and visualizations, and so that's reflected in how many projects I'm currently on (there's probably 20+ projects that I'm involved in). Here are some of the most recent active projects:

- Perceptions of Sickle Cell Disease Providers Regarding Telehealth – Collaboration with colleague from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- PASS Apnea: Development of a novel automated prediction tool for pediatric obstructive sleep apnea using electronic health records, collaboration with colleague from Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Three CSUSB students on the project
- Social determinants of health and Invasive Aedes mosquitoes, collaboration with colleague from Health Science & Human Ecology, with a CSUSB student on the project
- Association between student club involvement and academic performance, collaboration with colleague from Teacher Education and Foundation department

4. What advice do you have for students with similar research and professional interests?

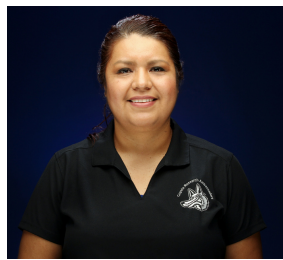
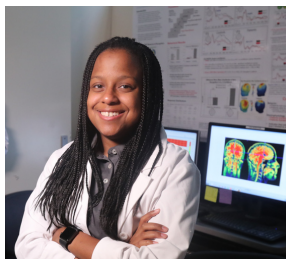
I have way too much to say about this, depending on the topic. Here's some general tips.

- Try it out! You won't know if you like research until you try it!
- There's different types of research! I did not like field research or laboratory research as much, but really loved quantitative research.
- Contact a professor who is doing research and ask for an "informational interview," where you ask questions about their career, how they got into it, what they do for research, etc.
- Not comfortable approaching a professor? No problem! Find a student who is doing research and ask them, like at different student conferences on campus, or contact an OSR Coyote Research Ambassador! They'll be happy to chat with you about their experiences and how to get involved.
- Research has a culture (and many sub-cultures depending on specific fields)! Just like you and your friends in person or online have different slang, habits, beliefs, repetitive phrases, etc. that no one outside of your group seems to understand, so do researchers. The words, phrases, and diagrams we use may seem "too smart" and can make newcomers feel like they are stupid (or just have a headache). I assure you, this is JUST research culture. You are fully capable of being a part of the research club. Be confident in yourself. Just hang around the club and you will pick up the research lingo just fine. In fact, you'll notice how we use the same phrases over, and over, and over...
- "I don't want to be a professor or go into academia... research isn't for me..." Oh? Problem solving, independent thinking, project management, working in teams, oral and written communication skills, analytical skills, and more... these are skills that research helps to develop, and skills that grad schools AND employers want!!
- There is a system to do nearly everything in research/academia/life, whether that's applying to grad school, applying for a professorship, etc.. Learn the system, and then make that system work for YOU. That's all I'll say about this in writing... Send me an email to chat some more!

5. Tell us one fun or unique fact about yourself!

I love cooking and eating cuisine from around the world. It's exciting to learn the culture and stories behind each dish and ingredient. I also make up my own fusion dishes based off what I have on hand, so I may be having a blend of ingredients from several continents in one dish.

Coyote Research Ambassadors



Left to right: Constance Greenwood, Holly Timblin, Karina Torres, Lakhvir Kaur, Michael Pierce, Miles Valencia, Sean Bonilla, Sophia Josemoan

The CRA program is made up of a diverse group of exceptional students with experience in research and creative activities. Ambassadors work to inspire broader engagement in research and creative activity by educating and serving the CSUSB campus community. Since its launch, CRAs have reached thousands of students and faculty across all colleges through their attendance of campus-wide events, such as Coyote Research Talks Live (CRTL), Transfer Tuesday Talks, and the CSUSB Student Research Competition, advising of students looking to get involved in research or apply for grants and graduate programs, class presentations about their research journey, and development and participation in OSR workshops.

We would like to recognize and thank the second cohort of CRAs: Constance Greenwood, Holly Timblin, Karina Torres, Lakhvir Kaur, Michael Pierce, Miles Valencia, Sean Bonilla, and Sophia Josemoan for their work and efforts to make this program a success, and congratulate all graduate CRAs on their acceptance into prestigious Ph.D. programs! We are both proud and excited to see you move up in your perspective academic fields.

CRAs

Constance Greenwood

College: Social & Behavioral Sciences

Cohort: Second

Holly Timblin

College: Social & Behavioral Sciences

Cohort: Second

Karina Torres

College: Business & Public Administration

Cohort: First

Lakhvir Kaur

College: Education

Cohort: First

Michael Pierce

College: Natural Sciences

Cohort: Second

Miles Valencia

College: Natural Sciences

Cohort: Second

Sean Bonilla

College: Natural Sciences

Cohort: Second

Sophia Josemoan

College: Social & Behavioral Sciences

Cohort: First

Request a CRA Presentation

Available for in class and Zoom presentations, workshops, talks, etc. We offer a variety of topics, including steps to getting involved in research, finding a faculty mentor, grant and program applications, & more. Email us today! osr@csusb.edu

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Researcher Award



Milli Patel, Supply Chain & Transportation Management

Each year, the OSR recognizes undergraduate and graduate students who have shown exemplary scholastic and research achievements in their field of study. Faculty from each college nominate their top students and the OSR Awards Committee select the award winners.

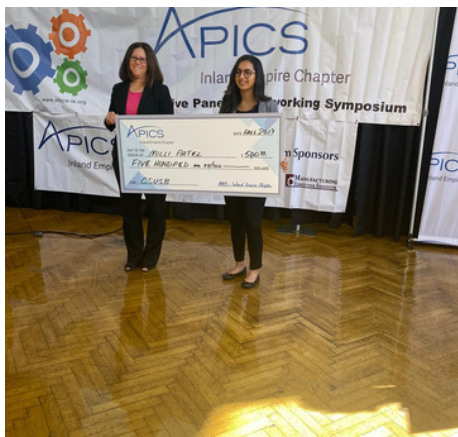
This year, the OSR acknowledged an outstanding undergraduate and graduate student during our 4th Annual "Research Week". Each student was given the opportunity to present their research during the "*Meeting of the Minds*" Student Research Symposium and the Faculty Mentors and Student Researchers Recognition Luncheon.

Milli Patel, is an undergraduate student in the College of Business and Public Administration. Please read below to learn more about her academic journey.

1. Tell us about yourself! Where did you grow up? What influenced you to pursue your field of study?

My name is Milli Patel, and I am a fourth year Supply Chain and Transportation Management major. I started my journey at CSUSB as an international student. When I moved to California four years ago to attend CSUSB, I had no idea about the exciting opportunities that were in store for me. I am grateful to have experienced living in different cultures while growing up. I was born in India and spent my entire childhood basking in the smells, sights and sounds of my fascinating country. I spent my youth in Canada, a country full of diversity and the one I call my home. Then, I moved to the US for higher education.

Supply Chain Management is an unconventional degree, it's not something that people dream of studying since childhood. My final year of high school, I was still unsure of what I wanted to pursue and during that time I was working a part-time job. The job was in a warehouse setting but I interacted with many senior employees there who helped me make the decision to finally study supply chain. I was fascinated by the idea of supply chain and how it moves the world. As I did more research about it, I figured it was the right path for me and I would not change it if I had a chance to go back.



Received a scholarship from APICS-IE. I got my research opportunity by meeting the VP of APICS-IE at this symposium.



One of my favorite hobbies is kayaking. This is a picture from a trip I went on with the CSUSB Adventure Club.

2. Tell us about your research interests and involvement in research at CSUSB?

I wanted to make a difference outside of the classroom, but how would a girl with an unconventional degree like supply chain set out to change the world? Isn't she going to work for corporations whose primary goal is to capitalize? All of these questions are valid, and I had previously posed them to myself. While searching for answers, I came across a research project opportunity that I am currently working on under the supervision of one of the most dynamic professors at CSUSB, Dr. Nasrin Mohabbati. It gave me the opportunity to interact with supply chain industry experts and policymakers

such as the Southern California Association of Government and APICS-IE, to name a few. My decision to take on this research project led to my first foray into the transportation side of the supply chain industry, which I quickly discovered I had a passion for. Through this project, I could see that I have the potential to make a difference.

The aim of the research project is to propose the idea of an Inland Port to enhance the current marine freight distribution system in SoCal. The existing system has many drawbacks, including traffic congestion, noise, and air pollution, and high operations cost due to inefficiency. The proposed Inland Port concept would aid in the resolution of current system issues as well as help meet future demand in an efficient and socially responsible manner. One of my responsibilities for this project includes interviewing industry experts and just recently one of the interviewees had said, "You guys are doing fantastic work, this is very good for the community and I applaud your team for taking this on". I recall these exact words because it was at that point that I knew I was on my way to achieving my dream of making a positive difference in the community.

3. What are your next steps in pursuing your career or educational goals?

I am excited about the challenges that are ahead of me in my career and graduate school. My long-term ambition after completing bachelor's is to either enter the supply chain field as a professional or continue my research and pursue a master's degree at a program of international reputation. It is also possible that my current research project would be turned into a published thesis and this, I believe would be a significant move forward in my career. I see myself continuing to work on projects that attempt to foster the betterment of the community.

4. What advice do you have for students who are interested in becoming involved in research?

I landed my research opportunity by networking. I got this advice from my mentors and I would like to pass it down to students interested in becoming involved in research activities. Building good relationships with professors outside the classroom is also important. This is to make sure that the professor is aware of who you are, your abilities and your interests. Professors deal with hundreds of students on a daily basis, so it is important to make yourself stand out. Most importantly, have fun. If you get involved in research that you are truly passionate about then it would make the whole journey easier.



I am very passionate about outdoor activities. This is a picture from a trip to Yosemite National Park.

Students Accepted into Ph.D. Programs

Congratulations to the following students on their acceptance into Ph.D. and other advanced graduate programs! We wish you the best of luck on this next step of your educational journey.

Student: Abdullah Ali Alhenaki
Major: Political Science
Mentor: Dr. Brian Janiskee
Institution: Johns Hopkins University
Program Type: Masters, School of Advanced International Studies
Field of Study: International Relations

Student: Christopher Ne Ville
Major: Biology (MS)
Mentor: Dr. Paul Orwin
Institution: University of Southern California
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Molecular Biology

Student: Edward Zakher
Major: Economics
Mentor: Dr. Dhruv Khurana
Institution: University of California, Santa Cruz
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Economics

Student: Adam Soleski
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Maria Santos
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Student: Cole Ebel
Major: Chemistry
Mentor: Dr. Andreas Beyersdorf
Institution: University of California, Riverside
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Chemistry

Student: Ehab Gad
Major: Chemistry, BA
Mentor: Dr. Kimberley Cousins
Institution: University of California, Riverside
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Chemistry

Student: Annika Coe
Major: Sociology
Mentor: Dr. Paloma Villegas
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Social Work

Student: Daicy Magallon
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Michael Lewin
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Student: Emily del Rosario
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Stacy Forcino
Institution: University of Arkansas
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Clinical Psychology

Student: Ashley Antonissen
Major: Biology
Mentor: Dr. Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Biology

Student: Deisy Morales
Major: Physics
Mentor: Dr. Sara Callori
Institution: San Diego State University
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Health Physics

Student: Estevan Hernandez
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Maria Santos
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Clinical/Counseling Psychology

Student: Brian Laundis
Major: Sociology
Mentor: Dr. Paloma Villegas
Institution: California State University, Northridge
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Sociology

Student: Dominic Garcia
Major: Biological Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Leslie Amodeo
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Psychological Sciences Behavioral Neuroscience

Student: Gabrielle Kelly
Major: Biological Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Leslie Amodeo
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Psychological Sciences Behavioral Neuroscience

Students Accepted into Ph.D. Programs

Student: Jazmine Gonzalez
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Manpreet Dhillon Brar
Institution: California State University, Fullerton
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Social Work

Student: Lakvir Kaur
Major: School Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Roderick O'Handley
Institution: University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: School Psychology

Student: Luis Chavez
Major: Masters of Public Health
Mentor: Dr. Neal Malik
Institution: University of Nevada, Reno
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Public Health

Student: Monique Quinn
Major: Biology MS
Mentor: Dr. Daniel Nickerson
Institution: University of California, Riverside
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Molecular Cell Biology

Student: Nathaniel Wallace
Major: Music
Mentor: Dr. Kevin Zhang
Institution: Berklee College of Music
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Creative Media & Technology

Student: Nazanin Beheshti
Major: Masters of Public Health
Mentor: Dr. Salome Mshigeni
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN)
Field of Study: Nutrition

Student: Rebecca Harder
Major: Sociology
Mentor: Dr. Jose Munoz
Institution: Case Western Reserve University
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Social Work

Student: Roger Griffin
Major: MA in TESOL
Mentor: Dr. Golge Seferoglu
Institution: Salve Regina University
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: International Relations

Student: Sean Connolly
Major: Biology
Mentor: Dr. Nicole Bournias-Vardiabasis & Dr. Daniel Nickerson
Institution: California State University, San Bernardino
Program Type: Masters, CIRM
Field of Study: Biology

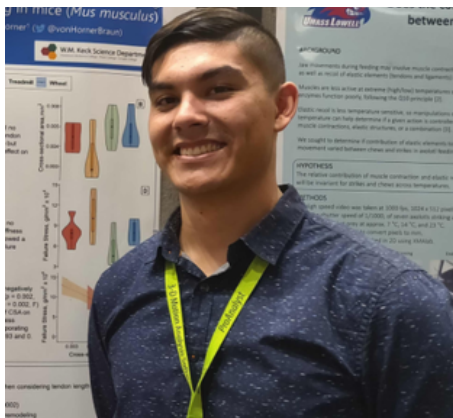
Student: Sean Maulding
Major: Communication Studies
Mentor: Dr. Julie Taylor
Institution: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Communication Studies

Student: Shane Burrell
Major: Communication Studies
Mentor: Dr. Mihaela Popescu
Institution: University of Oregon
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Communication/Gaming Studies

Student: Sophia Josemoan
Major: Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Maria Santos
Institution: Loma Linda University
Program Type: PsyD
Field of Study: Psychology

Student: Talar Ohanian
Major: Industrial/Organizational Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Mark Agars
Institution: Alliant University
Program Type: Ph.D.
Field of Study: Organizational Psychology

Student: William Prince
Major: Kinesiology (Exercise Science)
Mentor: Dr. Jason Ng & Dr. Wagner Prado
Institution: California State University, Fullerton
Program Type: Masters
Field of Study: Kinesiology (Exercise Physiology)



Miles Valencia, Biology

Miles Valencia, is an graduate student in the College Natural Sciences. Please read below to learn more about his academic journey.

1. Tell us about yourself! Where did you grow up? What influenced you to pursue your field of study?

I grew up in East LA and attended community college at ELAC. In high school, I found physiology fascinating because it taught me about my own body, and I've always wanted to be an educator, so I worked towards becoming a college professor. As I got involved in research my senior year at CSU Long Beach, I realized that I was particularly interested in biomechanics – how animals move – and have followed this research ever since.

2. Tell us about your research interests and involvement in research at CSUSB?

For my master's thesis, I'm focusing on the effects of exercise and aging on mice tendon remodeling. Specifically, I'm researching how different exercise types can affect the mechanical properties of mice tendons. I've shared my research at a number of conferences including the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology and CSUSB's Student Research Competition. I share my experiences navigating college and research through my positions as a Coyote Research Ambassador for CSUSB and as a member of the Education committee for the Association of Filipino Scientists in America.

3. What are you next steps in pursuing your career or educational goals?

My current goal is to complete my master's program sometime around January, and then I'll start my PhD program at UCI in their Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program. Nothing is set after that, so I'm trying to learn as much as I can in hopes of reaching my dream to be a college professor.

4. What advice do you have for students who are interested in becoming involved in research?

My advice is to make that leap of faith and email or talk with that professor about joining their lab. It's nerve wracking to cold-message a professor, and even more so when you think your resume/CV isn't competitive. If you can overcome this first hurdle, and they give you a chance to prove yourself, you'll experience so many new things that'll prepare you for your future. In the words of Shia LeBeouf, "Just do it!!"



Me at an LA Museum



A day trip with the family to play in the fresh snow at Big Bear Mountain



Me hiking near Big Bear Lake

[Research Week: Recap](#)

Research Week is an annual week-long event meant to showcase and celebrate scholarly research and creative activities. This year's 4th Annual Research Week event line-up included *Get the Scoop: Getting Involved with Research*, *Faculty/Staff Book Launch*, *Recognition of Principal Investigators*, *Keynote Speaker*, *10th Annual "Meeting of the Minds" Student Research Symposium*, and *Recognition of Faculty Mentors and Student Researchers*. Each event has its own purpose and celebrates the accomplishments of the faculty, students and staff of CSUSB.

[Get the Scoop: Getting Involved with Research](#) At this event the [Coyote Scholars Club](#) hosted a panel of graduate and undergraduate students that are involved in research on campus, and shared their experiences and how they got involved in research at CSUSB.

[Faculty/Staff Book Launch](#) The [Office of Graduate Studies](#) hosted its bi-annual Faculty & Staff Book Launch where the texts put forth by faculty and staff of all the academic colleges at CSUSB were honored.

[Recognition of Principal Investigators](#) The Principal Investigator's Reception was held to honor faculty who have been engaged in extramural grant activities and the events Keynote Speaker was Dr. Cynthia Crawford, who spoke on "*Age matters: Developmental Differences in Drug Responsivity.*"

[Keynote Speaker](#) The Keynote Speaker for the week-long event was Troy M. Williams who spoke on "*The Significance of Your Perspective.*" His current research explores the human ecological conditions that influence the ways Black residents in Dane County experience the opioid crisis.

["Meeting of the Minds" Student Research Symposium](#) This event showcased the results of students' hard work, and highlighted the outstanding research and creative activities taking place on our campus.

The event's opening ceremony featured guest speaker Dr. Azizi Seixas who spoke on "*Re-imagining Healthcare for All- Technology, Inequity, and the Healthcare Gap.*" Dr. Seixas is recognized as one of the top 100 Inspiring Black Scientists in America by Cell Press, and has over 100 high impact peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and conference presentations, and his work appears in several media-outlets.

["Meeting of the Minds", Student Research Symposium](#) had more than 150 participants from across all disciplines, 33 faculty volunteers, and over 4000 unique presentations views for the week. Awards were presented to undergraduate and graduate students for the best oral and poster presentations.

[Recognition of Faculty Mentors and Student Researchers](#) The event is held to honor the faculty who mentor students, and acknowledge the students for their achievements in research and creative activities.

The OSR would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the faculty mentors who consistently support their students and the activities of our office, and to the volunteers we thank you for your time and participation. The continued growth and success of the week-long event would not be possible without your passion, generosity, and commitment to the students of CSUSB.

We also extend our gratitude to all the students who participated and whose contributions helped make this one of the best symposiums yet.

Please visit the ["Meeting of the Minds", Student Research Symposium](#) webpage for a full list of the Oral and Poster Presentation winners.

Grant Recipients

The OSR is proud to provide funding and support for the innovative research and creative projects of CSUSB students and faculty mentors. Congratulations to all who were awarded an OSR grant during the 2020-2021 academic year!

Student Research & Travel

Amanda Frausto
Andria Cabrera
Ashlee Pardo
Ashton Andrews
Carina Castro
Carly Jacobs
Carmen Uribe
Constance Greenwood
Cristian Hernandez
Ellen Whitehead
Elmer Gutierrez
Eric Berru
Jasmine Alyssa Robinson
Jessica Navarro
Jordan Taylor
Lauren Velasquez Mercado
Lewis Schneider
Maria Velasco
Marielena Lozano
Matthew Roe
Melody Robinson
Natalie Ramirez
Nazaret Montejano
Nora Nickoel Ortega
Ordando Prieto
Ricard Hernandez
Rita Garcia
Yunuen Razo

SSI Graduate Student Culminating Project Grant

Allison Skokos
Bianca Rivera

Chelsea Bruning
Diego Gonzalez
Francey Olivia
Joanna Clevenger
Kelsey Meyer
Roberta Salgado
Selina Sanchez
Shane Burrell

Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Faculty

Dr. Angela Horner
Dr. Arianna Huhn
Dr. Becky Talyn
Dr. José Muñoz,
Dr. Kate Liszka
Dr. Kate Simonian
Dr. Luba Levin-Banchik
Dr. Maria Santos
Dr. Nancy Acevedo-Gil
Dr. Tomasz Owerkowicz

Students

Adrianna Rodriguez
Angela Garcia Torres
Apolo Ibanez-Rincon
Arianna Mariano
Breanna A. Ramirez
Brooke Baker
Carmen Uribe
Chase Hanson
Erika Kelley
Ezra Salazar

Haleigh Smith
Isabella Cantu
Isaiah Golden
Jennifer Lopez
Kabba Barua
Keya Soles
Lisa Patencio
Maggie Santo
Michelle Garcia
Miguel De Avila Diaz
Nathaly Ramos
Noelle Roddam
Paula Zaragoza
Ruby Trujillo
Sara Sandoval

Undergraduate Student Grants

Alejandro Hernandez,
Andres Garcia Garcia
Luana Plonski
Noelle Roddam

Faculty/Student Grants

Dr. Becky Talyn
Dr. Benjamin Becerra
Dr. Breanna Putman
Dr. Brett Stanley
Dr. Brittany Bloodhart
Dr. Deirdre Lanesskog
Dr. Laura Newcomb
Dr. Roderick O'Handley
Dr. Stacy Forcino
Dr. Tomasz Owerkowicz

Faculty Mentor Award

Dr. Julie Taylor
Dr. Meredith Conroy
Dr. Nasrin Mohabbati
Dr. Nicole Bournias-
Vardiabasis
Dr. Roderick O'Handley

STEM en Familia

Dr. Benjamin Becerra
Dr. Lida Ahmadi
Dr. Lynn Scow
Dr. Mahmood
Nikbakhtzadeh
Dr. Maria Santos
Dr. Min-Lin Lo
Dr. Paul Orwin
Dr. Yunfei Hou

Graduate Extended Reality Research Scholarship

Andrea Clary
Shane Burrell
Yue Zhou

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program (MMUF) is a two-year program that provides financial support, research mentorship, and assistance with graduate school preparation. The fundamental objective of MMUF is to address the problem of under-representation of minority faculty members in higher education. The MMUF program is designed to encourage fellows to enter Ph.D. programs in the humanities and prepare them for a career in academic.

California State University, San Bernardino has been home to the MMUF program since 2018 and is part of a five campus cohort, along with CSU Fullerton, CSU Dominguez Hills, CSU Los Angeles, and CSU Long Beach. Over the past year, CSUSB MMUF Fellows have had a number of noteworthy successes. In the fall, of 2020, CSUSB's fellows presented their research at the annual MMUF West Coast Regional Undergraduate Conference hosted virtually by the University of California Riverside. Fellows also presented their research at the CSUSB Research Competition in February, 2021, and first-year fellow Xavier Resendez was selected to represent the university at the CSU System Wide Student Research Competition that took place on April 30th and May 1st, 2021.

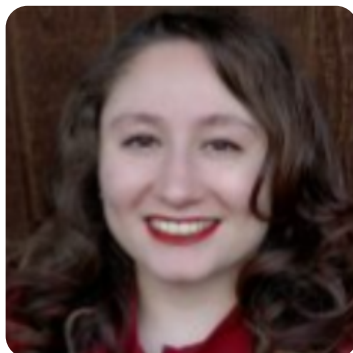
Chance Groom, Fernando Sanches, and Giovanni Gonzalez, will graduate, with honors from CSUSB, this may. Fernando has been awarded the prestigious Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowships from University of California, Berkeley, which will provide five years of funding and support as he pursues a PhD in Near Eastern Studies at that university. Giovanni Gonzalez has accepted a two-year funded post baccalaureate fellowship from the University of Virginia where he will serve as a fellow in the highly selective Bridge to the Doctorate Program. Giovanni was Michael also the recipient of the 2021 Persell Memorial Scholarship in European History from the CSUSB History Department.

First year fellows have also been extremely engaged in their work and have been recognized both in and outside of CSUSB. Sociology major Isabella Cantu was recognized as the 2020 Outstanding Student by the California Sociological Association and was the recipient of the Dominic Bulgarella Scholarship, awarded yearly by the Sociology Department at CSUSB. She and her mentor, Dr. Jose Munoz, were also selected to participate in CSUSB's 2021 Office of Student Research Undergraduate Fellowship Program. Stephanie Alfonso, a Communications major, was selected to participate in the MMUF Summer Research Training Program at the University of Chicago and was recently selected for the prestigious Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program. History major Xavier Resendez was selected for the UC Irvine Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Program and will also participate in the MMUF Summer Research Training Program at the University of Chicago.

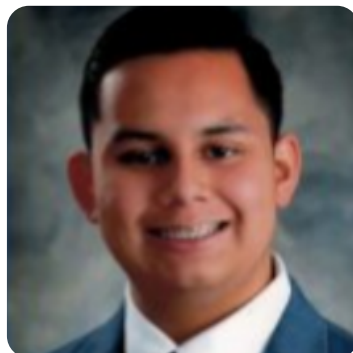
Congratulations to the newest Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows! We look forward to seeing your hard work and research contributions within your fields. And, congratulations to the graduating fellows - we wish you success in your future endeavors! Go Coyotes!



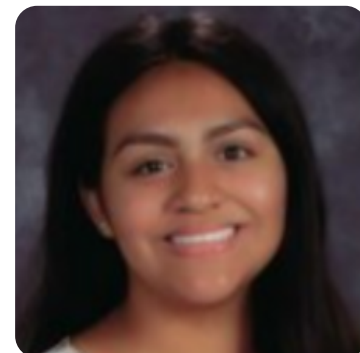
Johnathan Solomon



Stephanie Alfonso



Xavier Resendez



Isabella Cantu

Student Research Competition

Every year the CSU hosts the CSU Student Research Competition, an event meant to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity, and it gives students the opportunity to develop their presentation and communication skills while showcasing their scholarly achievements across the CSU. It recognizes outstanding research accomplished by students of all levels from all twenty-three campuses of the CSU, and every year a different CSU campus hosts the event; this year the lucky campus to host the competition was Cal Poly Pomona.

The 35th Annual CSU Student Research Competition was a great event for both the attendees and participants and CSUSB is proud to have had ten students of undergraduate and graduate levels, participate in this year's competition. The research presented by CSUSBs delegates ranged across all colleges and fields. The competition took place virtually and delegates were asked to submit a video recording of their presentation and participate in a live five minute Q&A with judges from a variety of disciplines from Cal Poly Pomona.

The OSR would like to acknowledge the efforts of all the CSUSB delegates, as their research was impressive and a tell of the hard work and dedication these students have for their research and respective fields. We are proud to have participated in the efforts of these student scholars. To the faculty mentors who have guided these students through all their research and presentation building skills, the OSR thanks you for your dedication to these students and the research they conduct. The success of the students and events such as this would not be possible if not for your participation and patience.

The OSR would also like to recognize and congratulate Edward Zakher for winning first place in his session. Great work and we look forward to see what you will accomplish next! (Please see next page for more details on the winner Edward Zakher).

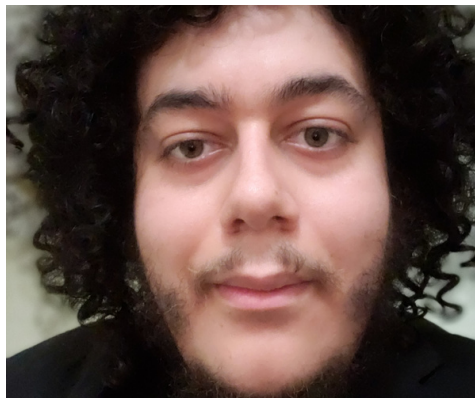
For more information on the CSU Student Research Competition please visit our [webpage](#) or contact the OSR.

CSUSB Delegates

Alexia Martinez	Luz Chavez
Andres Garcia	MacKenzie Feeken
Edward Zakher	Miles Valencia
Holli Rosas	Sean Bonilla
Holly Timblin	Xavier Resendez



Congratulations to the CSUSB delegate Edward Zakher, who won first place in his category at the 35th Annual CSU Student Research Competition hosted by Cal Poly Pomona.



Name(s): Edward Zakher

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Yasemin Dildar

Major: Economics (Political Economy Track)

Project Title: *To Leave Without Leaving*

Level: Undergraduate

1. Tell us about yourself! Where did you grow up? What influenced you to pursue your field of study?

A: For better or for worse, I am a born and raised Californian with a goal of pursuing a doctorate in Economics. I began studying Economics to pursue answers. I wanted to know why there is so much mistreatment and discrimination within the world for social class, race, and gender, and how we could change it. I found Economics to be an umbrella that houses many answers by linking itself with a variety of subjects such as History, Philosophy and Psychology.

2. Tell us about your research interests and involvement in research at CSUSB?

A: My main interest for research is social policy. There are many forms of welfare not provided within the United States, and I believe research is the foundation to implementing much needed changes, and the Economics department here at CSUSB has been constantly supporting my studies. The faculty has helped me immensely in being able to understand how to perform research and find factors far beyond what I had imagined to be so heavily integrated with Economics. Thanks to their support and encouragement, I gained the much-needed courage to submit my first ever outside the classroom research to the CSUSB Student Research Competition in 2020. That debut led to me now having worked on a total of three research projects all under different professors over the past two years here at CSUSB.

3. Tell us about your experience serving as a delegate and participating in the CSU Student Research Competition.

A: It was a very fun and unique experience. Most of the research in the Economics division this year was not about business much to my surprise. Instead, it was about welfare, social structure, inequality, education, power structures and even voter preferences. This year showed off just how far-reaching Economics is as a subject and being able to stand amongst the other presenters and perform was an honor.

4. What advice do you have for students who plan to compete in next year's competition?

A: My advice is to break the social norms. Often, research is presented in a very formal and monotone way. It makes education and research feel incredibly detached from the public as if it is only for an extremely exclusive group. By being energetic, loud, relatable, and funny you can draw the audiences' attention and leave them with a complete understanding of your research no matter their background in the subject. To that extent, I personally believe that someone with a double major in Theatre Arts or experience in acting would make for the best presenters of research.

Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Congratulations to all of this year's Undergraduate Summer Research Program participants! We look forward to seeing your research and presentations at the Undergraduate Summer Research Program Mini Conference in August.

College of Arts & Letters

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kate Simonian

Team: Jeniffer Lopez, Isaiah Golden & Michelle Garcia

Title: *Diversifying the Creative Classroom*

College of Education

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Nancy Acevedo-Gil

Team: Ezra Salazar, Adrianna Rodriguez & Paula Zaragoza

Title: *California Community Colleges Counselors: Counseling after the Implementation of Assembly Bill 705*

College of Natural Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Angela Horner

Team: Apolo Ibanez, Brooke Baker & Haleigh Smith

Title: *Jumping Ahead of Injury: Can High-Impact Juvenile Exercise Build a Stronger Adult Tendon?*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tomasz Owerkowicz

Team: Sara Sandoval & Breanna Ramirez

Title: *Do Crocodylians Have an Air-Conditioning Unit in their Heads? Testing Selective Brain Temperature Control in Alligators*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Becky Talyn

Team: Maggie Santos & Noelle Roddam

Title: *Exposure and Action of Glyphosate-Based Herbicides in Human and Animal Models*

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Dr. José Muñoz

Team: Isabella Cantu & Angela Garcia Torres

Title: *Latino First-Generation Faculty Trajectories through the Sociological Discipline*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kate Liszka

Team: Erika Kelley, Chase Hanson & Miguel De Avila

Title: *3D Modelling a 4000 Year Old Ancient Egyptian Mine and Settlement*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Luba Levin-Banchik

Team: Nathaly Ramos, Ruby Trujillo & Trevor Santellan

Title: *Playing the Games of Politics: Goals, Achieved Skills, and Policy Relevance of Simulations in International Relations*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Arianna Huhn

Team: Keya Soles, Lisa Patencio & Tommie Gobel

Title: *Unmasking the Past*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Maria Santos

Team: Carmen Uribe & Arianna Mariano

Title: *Optimizing Engagement in Community Mental Health Services*



Coyote Research Talks Live

This spring semester, the Office of Student Research introduced a new way for professors of all fields to introduce, discuss and promote their research to the CSUSB campus. The Coyote Research Talks Live (CRTL) on Instagram are a new and exciting way for students to engage with professors and explore the plethora of research opportunities offered at CSUSB.

This spring two of our Coyote Research Ambassadors (CRAs) hosted CRTLs with professors from the Biology Department, the Music Department, the Information and Decision Sciences Department, and more. The CRAs are also engaging in talks with professors from across the campus to host more CRTLs in the coming fall semester!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the professors who have participated thus far and who have scheduled a CRTL for the near future. Your participation and enthusiasm is the force that drives student research at CSUSB. We would also like to thank the CRAs who made these fifteen-minute talks exciting, engaging and successful, your work and enthusiasm for this outreach is appreciated and well-received.

If you are a professor and interested in participating in these talks please reach out to the OSR by email.

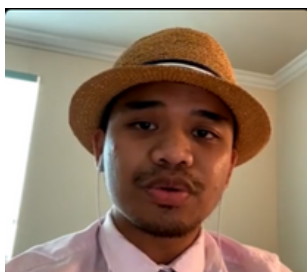
Coyote Research Talks Live

LIVE

Coyote Research Ambassadors



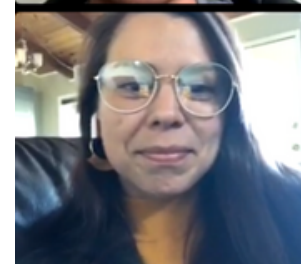
CRA Miles Valencia and
Dr. Lua Lopez
Date: March 10th, 2021



CRA Sean Bonilla and
Dr. Benjamin Becerra
Date: April 7th, 2021



CRA Sean Bonilla and
Dr. Jessica Getman
Date: April 21st, 2021



CRA Miles Valencia and
Dr. Breanna Putman
Date: April 28th, 2021



Dr. Dorota Huizinga
Associate Provost for Research,
Dean of Graduate Studies



Dr. Ryan Keating
Associate Professor of History,
Director, Office of Student Research



Danielle White, MA
Program Coordinator



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