

The Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering (HMCSE) celebrates student-centered research by our faculty and research staff. The 2017 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is the third year in which we have invested in an intensive undergraduate research experience requiring selected students to devote 250 or more hours to a research project under close supervision of a faculty mentor.

Additionally, HMCSE faculty mentor undergraduate and graduate students over the summer and throughout the year in other programs, from course-based research to graduate thesis projects. Thank you for joining us for today's celebration of all HMCSE summer research efforts by our faculty, staff, and students.

## AGENDA

10:00 Poster Session

*Poster presentations are listed by department & floor*

12:00 Lunch, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

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3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**SUMMER  
RESEARCH**  
**SYM  
POS  
IUM**  
**2017**  
August 11

Hal Marcus  
College of Science and Engineering

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UNIVERSITY *of* WEST FLORIDA

**SURP**

SUMMER  
UNDERGRADUATE  
RESEARCH PROGRAM

## BIOLOGY

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

### *Investigating Cell Death Phenomena in Drosophila*

Zachary Callahan, Wadey Abdelqader, Kendra Hammock, and Dr. Hui-Min Chung

### *Characterization of cytotoxicity and localization of Fluorescent Polycyclic Azaborine Chromophores*

Niccole Auld, Dr. Alan Schrock, Dr. Michael Huggins, Dr. Carl Saint-Louis, and Dr. Peter Cavnar

### *Neutrophil Apoptosis Studies with Atypical Antipsychotics using JC-1 Flow-Based Assays*

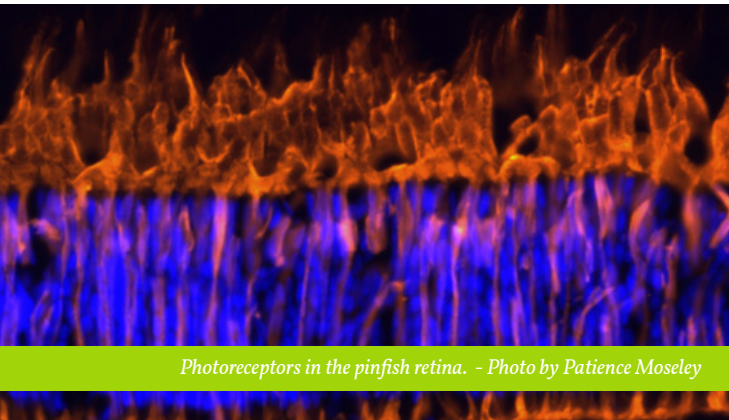
Bayla Bessemer, Courtney Swain, and Dr. Peter Cavnar

### *The Role of Hsp90 in Retinal Regeneration*

Alexander Kuss and Dr. Scott Taylor

### *Mechanisms that Regulate Development of Retinal Neurons in Marine Pinfish, *Lagodon rhomboides**

Patience Moseley and Dr. Scott Taylor



Photoreceptors in the pinfish retina. - Photo by Patience Moseley

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

### *Modulating Inflammasome Activity by Using FcyR1la*

Katherine Quintin, Michelle Colbert, Katherine Cascino, Dr. Michael Chattergoon, and Dr. Andrea Cox

### *Relatedness of Neuston in the Gulf of Mexico*

Jennifer Gibson and Dr. Alexis Janosik

### *Microplastics Presence in Local Crabs and Waters*

Sara Ousley and Dr. Alexis Janosik

### *Microplastics in the Plankton*

Tristan Garza and Dr. Alexis Janosik

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

### *Assessing Gopher Tortoise Use and Potential as Receiving Site at Naval Live Oaks*

Alexandrea Fox, Daniel Morris and Dr. Philip Darby



### *c-Abl and PARIS (ZNF746) as $\alpha$ -synuclein Targets in Dopaminergic Neurodegeneration: Validation Strategies Using Genetic and Pre-clinical Animal Models of Parkinson's Disease (PD)*

Saurav Brahmachari, Preston Ge, Stephan Quintin, Esther Kim, Rosa Shi, Senthilkumar Karuppagounder, Han Seok Ko, Valina Dawson, and Dr. Ted Dawson

### *Using Phage as a Biomarker Identification tool for Early Alzheimer's Disease Detection*

Olivia Brock, Benjamin Medeiros, and Dr. Rodney Guttman

### *The Influence of a Major Flood Event on Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*)*

Tori Stone and Dr. Christina Toms



Tristan Garza and Dr. Alexis Janosik - sampling for project

## CEDB

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIAGNOSTICS & BIOREMEDIATION

### *Photochemical Reactivity of Motor Oils and Their Toxicity to Marine Bacterioplankton*

Sarah Zarn, Erika Neat, Melissa Ederington-Hagy,  
and Dr. Wade H. Jeffrey

### *Pensacola Bay & Gulf of Mexico Photoheterotrophy: Proteorhodopsin-containing and Aerobic Anoxygenic Phototrophic Bacteria Community Seasonal Shifts and Light-Induced Growth*

Meredith Snyder, M. Overton, Dr. Wade H. Jeffrey,  
and Dr. Lisa Waidner

### *Connectivity among Estuarine Fish of the Gulf of Mexico*

Logan Walker, Chris Bijou, Ashley Barham,  
Grace Turnage, Trey Welch, and Dr. Jeff Eble

### *The Bacterial and Nutrient Analysis of the Effects of Storm Events on Bayou Chico's Watershed*

Sierra Hobbs, Son Truong, Dr. Jane Caffrey,  
and Dr. Matthew Schwartz

### *Comparative Analysis of Nitrate Levels in Pensacola Area Rain Water*

Jade Jacobs and Dr. Jane Caffrey

### *Evaluating Primary Productivity, Respiration and Nutrient Fluxes on Artificial Reefs using Biofilm Samplers*

Beija Gore, Florian Cesbron, Kendra Brooks,  
Will Patterson and Dr. Jane Caffrey

## CHEMISTRY

### *Analysis of DDT and its Metabolites in Polluted Sediments*

Jeffery Wright, Jr., Michael Hopko, Frazer Mayson,  
Dr. Pamela P. Vaughan, and Dr. Johan Liebens.

### *Synthesis and Biological Activity of Novel 1,3-Oxazole Sulfonamides*

Esam Almanasrah and Dr. Korry Barnes



Let it glow! (L to R): Ashton Taylor, Caleb McClinton and Haleigh Castonguay

### *Succinate Polyester Polyol Copolymers and Blends: Synthesis, Compatibility, Crystallization Kinetics, and Crystal Morphologies*

Jacqueline Blue, Clay Finley, Heather Hamilton,  
Thomas Hunt, Marshal Stitt and Dr. Alan K. Schrock

### *Succinate Polyester Block Copolymers: Synthesis and Morphology Characterization*

Hannah Booher, Thomas Hunt, Marshall Stitt,  
and Dr. Alan K. Schrock

### *The Synthesis and Spectroscopic Analysis of Tunable Highly Fluorescent Polycyclic Azaborine Chromophores*

Breanna Brown, Caleb McClinton, Julie Wilson,  
Lacey Magill, Renee Shavnore, Dr. Carl Saint-Louis,  
Dr. Alan K. Schrock, and Dr. Michael Huggins

### *The Synthesis and Characterization of Highly Fluorescent Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons*

Ashton Taylor, Haleigh Castonguay, Breanna Brown,  
Caleb McClinton, Dr. Carl Saint-Louis,  
Dr. Alan K. Schrock, and Dr. Michael Huggins

### *Metal Organic Framework Cu<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>(cap)<sub>6</sub> as a Tunable Molecular Magnet*

William Farmer, Sam Skinner, and Dr. Leo ter Haar

## CHEMISTRY CONT.

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

### *Crystal Structure of 1,10-Phenanthroline Trifluoromethyl Copper(I)*

Kassandra Oldham, Wendy Teuchtler, Jade Jacobs, Niccole Auld, Kaleigh Haga, Brett Bookheimer, and Dr. Timothy Royappa

### *Progress Towards the Synthesis of 1,10-Phenanthroline Trifluoromethyl Copper(I)*

Matthew Leighton, Benjamin Friedman, William Farmer, Elisey Shcherbina, and Dr. Timothy Royappa

### *High-Yielding Synthesis of Copper(I) and Gold(I) Thiolates*

Chau Tran, Mohsan Khan, and Dr. Timothy Royappa

### *A Facile New Route to Ligandless Copper(I) Carboxylates*

Joshua Sockman, Anthony Noll, Mackenzie Kidd, Sherry Sandri, John Ducilon, Amy Ishver, and Dr. Timothy Royappa

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

### *Synthesis of a Hydrolytic Enzyme Mimic*

Grace Tegenkamp, Lacey Carroll, and Dr. Ajay Lajmi

### *Development of New Synthetic Methodologies Involving Iodine Mediated One-pot Cyclization/Alkylation Sequence and Electrophilic Diazocyclization*

Hailee Hawkins, Katherine Whalen, Cory Kornman, and Dr. Tanay Kesharwani

### *Synthesis of Dihaloisoquinolines Via Iodine Mediated One-pot Cyclization/Chlorination Sequence and Electrophilic Nitrocyclization*

Christopher Cunningham, Cory Kornman, and Dr. Tanay Kesharwani

### *Synthesis of Biologically Useful Azaindole Derivatives Using Electrophilic Cyclization*

Aimee Phillips, Kajal Naran, and Dr. Tanay Kesharwani

### *Unprecedented Cu Catalyzed Green Electrophilic Chlorocyclization Using Table Salt*

Christopher Walter, Natalie Fallows, and Dr. Tanay Kesharwani

### *Synthesis of Oxygen and Sulfur Containing Heterocycles via Electrophilic Chlorocyclization*

Sohail Mirza, Soha Khan, Alex Tran, and Dr. Tanay Kesharwani

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

### *Sample Preparation Methods for Surface-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry of Biomolecules Using Transition Metal Oxide Nanoparticles*

Alyssa McCoy, Julia Schwieg, Lauren Barnes, Bryan Zanca, Joseph Yount, Michelle Lapak, Dr. Abayomi Olaitan, and Dr. Karen S. Molek

### *Surface-assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization Mass Spectrometry of Carbohydrates and Nucleic Acid Using Metal Oxide Nanoparticles*

Savanna Ward, Lauren Barnes, Julia Schwieg, Alyssa McCoy, Bryan Zanca, Joseph Yount, Michelle Lapak, Jesse Taylor, Dr. Abayomi Olaitan, and Dr. Karen S. Molek



Joshua Sockman gets hands-on experience working in the glovebox.



*SURP students gather with their mentors to finalize their collaborative project: (l to r standing) Dr. Dallas Snider, Dr. Jason Ortegren, and Dr. Anthony Okafor; (l to r sitting) Jared White, Allen Ward, and Zackary Bruley.*

4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

***Growth Kinetics of Surface Modified Zinc Oxide Quantum Dots at Room and Cold Temperatures Using LiOH and KOH***

Dillion Francis, De'Zhanae McCall-Butler, Jessica Davis-Gunn, Aaron Mena, Brandon Colon, Dr. Pamela P. Vaughan, Dr. Alan K. Schrock, Dr. Peter Cavnar, and Dr. Karen S. Molek

***Growth Kinetics of Surface Modified Zinc Oxide Quantum Dots at Room and Cold Temperatures Using NaOH and CsOH***

Jessica Davis-Gunn, De'Zhanae McCall-Butler, Dillion Francis, Aaron Mena, Brandon Colon, Dr. Pamela P. Vaughan, Dr. Alan K. Schrock, Dr. Peter Cavnar, and Dr. Karen S. Molek

***Biological Toxicity Testing of Photochemically Degraded Oil/Water Accommodated Fractions***

Savannah Bifulco, Phillip Bann, Lauryn Reid, Cheyenne Brannon, Dr. Wade H. Jeffrey, and Dr. Pamela P. Vaughan

**COMPUTER SCIENCE**

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

***Big Data and Interdisciplinary Geosciences Research: Examining the Rainfall Influences of the North Atlantic Subtropical High***

Jared White, Allen Ward, Zackary Bruley, Dr. Dallas Snider, Dr. Anthony Okafor and Dr. Jason Ortegren

***Leveraging Database Technologies to Analyze the Correlation Between Atmospheric Pressures in the North Atlantic Ocean and Rainfall Totals in the Eastern United States***

Allen Ward, Dr. Dallas Snider, and Dr. Jason Ortegren

***Creating a Classroom Programming Lab Environment Using Android and Blockly***

Don Kerrigan and Dr. Brian Eddy

***Understanding the Role of Class Information in Method Level Feature Location***

Jonathan Jurczak and Dr. Brian Eddy

***Generating Flow Maps for Efficient Water Simulation in Opengl***

Hunter Werenskjold and Dr. Brian Eddy

***Developing a Testbed of Microservices for Research and Education***

Bhavyansh Mishra, Valeria Gamboa, and Dr. Brian Eddy

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

***A Case-based Reasoning Approach to Activity Recognition in Smart Home Environments***

Ruben Ramirez and Dr. Thomas Reichherzer

***A Case Study on the Impact of Cloud Service Configurations in Building Secure, Scalable, and Efficient IoT Networks***

Ruben Ramirez, Dr. Thomas Reichherzer, Dr. Norman Wilde, Dr. Amitabh Mishra, and Dr. Ezhil Kalaimannan

***Hacking Wearable Devices to Track Individuals & Their Fitness Activities***

Nathaniel Reyes and Dr. Thomas Reichherzer

## EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

### *Regionalization of Eastern U.S. Drought Variability, 1910-2016, and Linkages to North Atlantic Subtropical Anticyclone Variability*

Jared White and Dr. Jason Ortegren

### *Changes in Annual and Seasonal Spatioemporal Variability of Tornado Frequency in the Southeastern U.S.A., 1976-2015*

Tyler Mitchell and Dr. Jason Ortegren

### *Climatologies of Southeastern U.S. Tropical and Non-Tropical Tornado Outbreaks Using Different 'Outbreak' Definitions, 1976-2016*

Rebecca Foglietti and Dr. Jason Ortegren

### *Persistent Multi-Year Oscillation of April-May Rainfall in Pensacola and the Gulf Coast Region, 1960-2016: Spatiotemporal Characteristics and Possible Causes*

Yasmin Hernandez and Dr. Jason Ortegren

### *Statistical and Spatial Analysis of Age and Health Regarding Saguaro Cactus in an Urban Environment*

Ridley Lancaster, Dr. Derek Morgan,  
and Dr. Zhiyong Hu



EES SURP student, Amber Huggins, measuring elevation of submerged site in Bayou Texar.

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR

### *Living Shorelines: An Assessment of Geomorphic Change and Water Quality*

Amber Huggins, Dr. Phillip Schmutz,  
and Dr. Matthew Schwartz

### *The Bacterial and Nutrient Analysis of the Effects of Storm Events on Bayou Chico's Watershed*

Sierra Hobbs, Son Truong, Dr. Jane Caffrey,  
and Dr. Matthew Schwartz

### *DDT Analysis of Wetland Sediments in Upper Escambia Bay*

Michael Hopko, Jeffery Wright, Dr. Johan Liebens,  
and Dr. Pamela P. Vaughan

### *The Utility of Using a Near-Infrared (NIR) Camera to Measure Beach Surface Moisture*

Shannon Nelson and Dr. Phillip Schmutz

## ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

### *Maneuverability evaluation of an Attendant Controlled Wheelchair with Desired Dynamics*

Jonathan Herrero and Dr. Oscar Chuy

### *Utilizing Arm Configuration to Stabilize an Assistive Motorized Wheelchair*

Adam Mooers and Dr. Oscar Chuy

### *Transient Stability Assessment using Big Data and Data Mining Techniques*

Zachary Pannell, Dr. Bhuvanewari Ramachandran, and Dr. Dallas Snider

### *Short-Term Load Forecasting Including Uncertainties Using Stochastic Optimization*

Tyler Stevens, Eric Collins, Dr. Achraf Cohen, and Dr. Bhuvanewari Ramachandran

## MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

### *Using Reinforcement Learning for Balancing an Inverted Pendulum*

Renan Barbosa and Dr. Michael Reynolds

### *Towards Reduction of Wind Turbine Noise by Using Biomimetic Blade Designs*

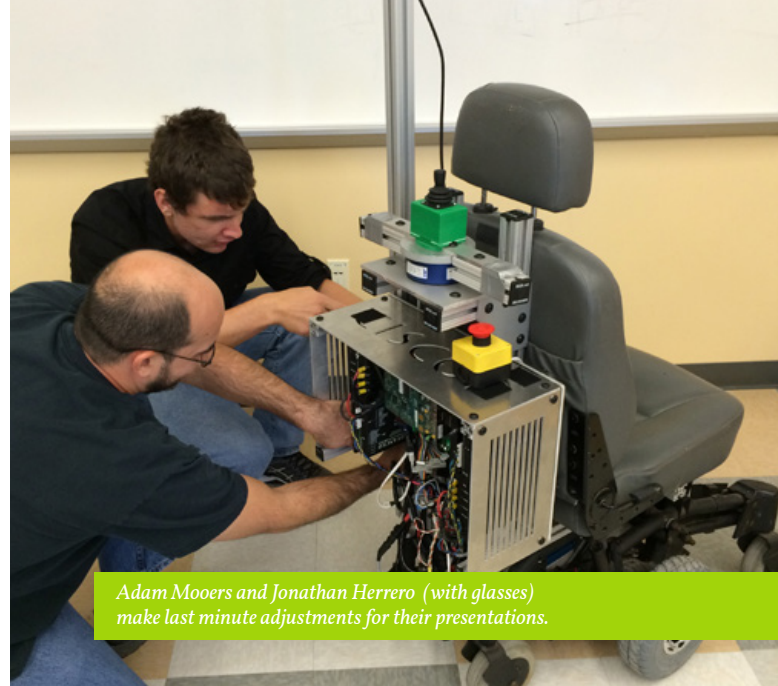
Murilo Basso and Dr. Cheng Zhang

### *Improving Solar Car Shell Design by using Computational Fluid Dynamics Modeling*

Marcus Jackson and Dr. Cheng Zhang

### *Detached Eddy Simulation of the Flow around Model Cars*

Michael Taylor and Dr. Cheng Zhang



Adam Mooers and Jonathan Herrero (with glasses) make last minute adjustments for their presentations.

## MATHEMATICS

### *Preliminary Exploratory Analysis of the Effect of the North Atlantic Subtropical High (NASH) on Warm Season Rainfall*

Zackary Bruley and Dr. Anthony Okafor

### *Predictive Modeling: Batter/Pitcher Matchup*

Joseph Kennedy, Stacey Burchette, Talia Baraco, and Dr. Anthony Okafor

### *The Numerical Solutions of Ordinary Differential Equations Using Python*

Nicholas Dunn and Dr. Jia Liu

### *Page Rank and Markov Chains - Solving Linear Systems*

Valeria Gamboa and Dr. Jia Liu

## PHYSICS

### *Using Symmetries to Generate Building Blocks for Simulations of Quantum Magnetism*

Amy Platt, David Smith, and Dr. Christopher Varney

### *Investigating High Speed Deflagrations through Rock Rubble Resulting from Methane Gas Explosions in Confined Spaces*

Davy Pardonner, Brianne Treffner, Claire Strebingner, Dr. Jergen Brune, and Dr. Gregory Bogin