UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

# SURP

## SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

presented by

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

AND

HAL MARCUS
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

**AUGUST 8, 2025**
**10AM - 12PM**

# 11th Annual SUMMER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 2025

August 8

presented by

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

AND

HAL MARCUS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING


**SURPRISE & DELIGHT:**
Be sure to stop on the first floor lobby to say thank you to the Pensacola Section of the American Chemical Society for providing a special treat from ***Nothing Bundt Cakes*** in Pensacola.

**AWARD NOMINEES:**
Look for this symbol to recognize who has been nominated for the first-ever SURP Awards.


## SURP Breakfast (Special Invitation)
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Building 4, Room 102

## SURP Symposium: Poster Session
10:00 am - 12:00 pm, All floors

## Awards Ceremony
11:30 am - 12:00 pm, 1st Floor

Poster presentations are listed by department with the student's **Floor/Panel#** next to their name. *(See map and alphabetical list on the inside back cover)*

## What is a Magic Moment?

Throughout the program, you will see "Magic Moments." **Magic Moments** are points in time when students felt confident as a researcher, when something clicked for them, or when they felt the pride of having a research "win." We ask research students to document these moments to help build their identity as a "researcher" and contribute to their self confidence in getting through some of the more challenging parts of research.

**The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and Hal Marcus College of Science and Engineering (HMCSE) celebrate student-centered research by our faculty and research staff.**

The 2025 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) is the eleventh year in which we have invested in an intensive undergraduate research experience requiring selected students to devote 225 or more hours to a research project under close supervision of a faculty mentor.

Additionally, faculty from across the university 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 OUR and HMCSE summer research efforts by our faculty, staff and students.


## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# SURP Legacy Researchers

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bonnie Bruner** | **1/1** | | **Biology** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *EGFR-Targeted Phage Screening: Like Speed Dating, but for Science* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Mullet Innovation Award |
| **Yessenia Cintron** | **1/3** | | **Chemistry** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Furanyl Derivatives as Renewably Sourced Redoxmers* | | None | Dr. Jacob Tracy HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Arav Jain** | **1/9** | | **Physics** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Computational Study to Derive the Relationship Between the Raman shift and Pressure of Gas Phase Molecule Interactions* | | None | Dr. Aaron Wade, HMCSE - Physics | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |
| **Katherine Lundgren** | **1/2** | | **Biology** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Quantification of Microplastics in Black Skimmers along the Gulf Coast of Florida* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# SURP Legacy Researchers

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sara Lypko** | **1/4** | | **Chemistry** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Synthesis and Crystallization of Rosocyanine* | | None | Dr. Tim Royappa, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Bianca Malone** | **1/10** | | **Chemistry** | *SURP Legacy & Former U-RISE* |
| *Colorimetric Characterization of Highly Fluorescent Ligands for Metal Cation Detection & Computational Analysis of Ligand-Metal Binding* | | Dominic Bolden, Alana Davis | Dr. Pam Benz, HMCSE - Chemistry | Department of Chemistry; Office of Undergraduate Research; Tanner Endowment |
| **Emmanuel Paalam** | **1/7** | | **Math & Statistics** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Accelerating Feasible Clinical Trial Design: A Machine Learning Study Using Features Engineered from Unstructured and Tabular AACT Data* | | None | Dr. Achraf Cohen, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Department of Mathematics & Statistics |
| **Brianna Perea** | **1/8** | | **Math & Statistics** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Kumaraswamy Exponentiated Odds Ratio Family of Distributions* | | Declan McGurk, Sean Fang, Michael Fang | Dr. Shusen Pu, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Office of Undergraduate Research; UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Malane Qi** | **1/5** | | **Chemistry** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Development of Environmentally Benign Electrophilic Cyclization Reaction* | | Preston Chew, Dr. Tanay Kesharwani | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs; Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Emily Twitchell** | **1/6** | | **Chemistry** | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Synthesizing and purification of an unsymmetrical triazaphenalene-type orthoamide intermediate* | | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Tate Williams** | **1/11** | | **Art & Design** | *SURP Legacy & Light* |
| *AUTHENTICITY.* | | None | Marzia Ransom, CASSH - Art & Design | Office of Undergraduate Research |

Be sure to read about our **LEGACY RESEARCHERS** in the centerfold, pages 13-14.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Anthropology

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Josephine Joseph** | **2/12** | | | *SURF* |
| *Screen Time, Sleep, and Depression: Difference by Childhood Maltreatment in a Longitudinal Study* | | None | Mudasir Mustafa, CASSH - Anthropology | Summer Undergraduate Research Foundations Program |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Art & Design

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tate Williams** | **1/11** | | | *SURP Legacy & Light* |
| *AUTHENTICITY.* | | None | Marzia Ransom, CASSH - Art & Design | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Biology

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Julia Allgeyer** | **3/44** | | | *SURP* |
| *A Look Inside the Jelly: microplastics quantification of gelatinous zooplankton in the northern Gulf of Mexico* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosick, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Sean Bacon** | **3/57** | | | *SURF* |
| *Using M13 Phage Display to Synthesize Synthetic Spider Silk* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Natasha Brown** | **4/78** | | | *SURP* |
| *Examining the Diversity and Abundance of Hermit Crab Symbionts on the Gulf Coast of Northwest Florida* | | None | Dr. Viktoria Bogantes, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |

## MAGIC MOMENTs

My research magic moment was when I started my first experiment on my own. During that experiment I tested my abilities and knowledge while working in the Lab. I gained a lot of knowledge on what to do and what not to do, and it has helped boost my confidence everyday I show up to Lab.

*- Joseph Flanigan, Summer Light Researcher, Biology*

Since my first Summer of 2019 to the present, I have been blessed with excellent students; this 2025 group is no exception. Even before we began, I knew that they were going to distinguish themselves by their self-motivation and inner direction. Mastering numerous field sampling skills (despite the Florida heat and even a major downpour!), along with techniques in the lab, they have already produced publishable data.

*- Dr. Frank Gilliam, Earth & Environmental Sciences*

# BIOLOGY CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bonnie Bruner** | **1/1** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *EGFR-Targeted Phage Screening: Like Speed Dating, but for Science* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Mullet Innovation Award |
| **Emma Constant** | **2/35** | | | *SURP* |
| *The Effects of Dopamine on Neutrophil Cell Adhesion* | | None | Dr. Peter Cavnar, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Dustin Duval** | **4/95** | | | *SURP* |
| *Fungal Ecology of Northwest Florida: How do different species of fungi impact soil nutrient composition* | | Zeke Miller | Dr. Sarah Tominack, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research; Summer Undergraduate Research Foundations Program |
| **Joseph Flannigan** | **3/60** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Identification of Phage Binders to pTau217 Using Phage Display* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Carly Goodman** | **3/58** | | | *SURP* |
| *Identifying Alzheimers Disease Biomarkers using Phage Display* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Identifying Biomarkers grant to Dr. Guttmann |

# BIOLOGY CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alyssa-James Gray** | **4/96** | | | *SURP* |
| *Fungal Ecology of Northwest Florida: Continued Investigation on the UWF Campus* | | Zeke Miller | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs; Summer Undergraduate Research Foundations Program |
| **Caleb Hanners** | **3/63** | | | *Former U-RISE* |
| *Targeting of pTau 181 With Phage Display* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | |
| **Chelsey Heenan** | **3/47** | | | *Former U-RISE* |
| *Beneath the Surface: A Molecular Dive into the Parasites of Mola mola* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | |
| **Ella Hubbard** | **3/45** | | | *SURP* |
| *Detecting the Crystal Darter (Crystallaria asprella) in the Florida Panhandle Using Environmental DNA* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Jefferson Jiang** | **2/22** | | | *SURP* |
| *Cascading Cyclization of Diarylbutadiynes to Form Fused Heterocycles* | | Liz McDonnell, Declan McGurk | Dr. Prerna Masih, HMCSE - Biology | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research; Office of Undergraduate Research; UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Alayna Kliche** | **3/61** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Development of Calpain II Inhibitors using a Peptide-Phage Library Screening Method* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Imani (Dante) Knight** | **4/80** | | | *SURP* |
| *Shape Variation in the Host Species of the Amazon Molly* | | None | Dr. Waldir Berbel-Filho, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Katherine Lundgren** | **1/2** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Quantification of Microplastics in Black Skimmers along the Gulf Coast of Florida* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |

# BIOLOGY CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bryley Lyublanovits** | **3/62** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Developing Assays to Monitor HER2-Positive Cell Behavior: A Pilot Study Using HEK293 Cells* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Declan McGurk** | **2/34** | | | *SURP* |
| *DMTSF-mediated electrophilic cyclization for the synthesis of 3-thiomethyl-substituted benzo[b] furan derivatives* | | Langley Knighten, Maria Peña Bú | Dr. Prerna Masih, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Kainan Murphy** | **4/97** | | | *SURP* |
| *Developing a Controlled Fungal Culture Collection* | | Zeke Miller | Dr. Sarah Tominack, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs; Summer Undergraduate Research Foundations Program |
| **Zoe Salandy** | **3/46** | | | *SURP* |
| *Characterizing organisms from Antarctic Sediments of Two Fjord Habitats* | | None | Dr. Alexis Janosik, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Evan Tomlinson** | **4/79** | | | *SURP* |
| *Investigating the Diversity of The Zooplankton in the Pensacola Bay: A study of species diversity and temporal trends* | | None | Dr. Sarah Tominack, HMCSE - Biology | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |
| **Hunter Turpin** | **4/98** | | | *SURP* |
| *Genomic Investigation of a Longleaf Pine-Associated Mushroom* | | Zeke Miller | Dr. Sarah Tominack, HMCSE - Biology | UWF Academic Affairs; Summer Undergraduate Research Foundations Program |
| **D'Juan Wimberly** | **3/59** | | | *SURP* |
| *Identification of Phage Binders to Phosphorylated Tau in Human CSF Using Phage Display* | | None | Dr. Rodney Guttmann, HMCSE - Biology | Department of Biology |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## CEDB | Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Jacob Feldman** | **2/42** | | | *SURP* |
| *Factors affecting Vibrio vulnificus abundance in Oyster liquor* | | None | Dr. Lisa Waidner, HMCSE - CEDB | CEDB |
| **Lauren Mills** | **2/43** | | | *SURP* |
| *You'll never guess what I caught! Community Science and Angler Engagement to Understand Common Snook Range Expansion in the Florida Panhandle* | | None | Dr. Amanda Croteau, HMCSE - CEDB | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Lily Sirois** | **4/81** | | | *SURP* |
| *Seagrass beds: analysis of environmental variables against population composition and density* | | Sierra Rich, Morgan Armstrong, Michael Swords, Rick O'Connor, Thomas Derbes, Chris Verlinde, Barbara Albrecht | Dr. Jane Caffrey, HMCSE - CEDB | Office of Undergraduate Research |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## Chemistry

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Julia Beyer** | **2/24 \| 2/25** | | | *SURP* |
| *"Furan" for a Surprise: What's Really in Baby Food?* | | Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| *Fermentation Information: An analysis of kombucha via GCMS & ICP-OES* | | Kyra Pierce, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Itamar Blau** | **3/48** | | | *SURP* |
| *Difluorination of Tetramic Acid Derivatives with Water* | | None | Dr. Jacob Tracy, HMCSE - Chemistry | Department of Chemistry |

## MAGIC MOMENTs

During my magic moment, I was gathering information on my research topic by interviewing experts in the field. After my interview, my mentor informed me that the expert I had spoken with was very impressed by my abilities as an interviewer and researcher. This skyrocketed my confidence and led to more meaningful preparation that enhanced my understanding of my topic.

*- Jonathan Peterson, Summer Light Researcher, Biology*

My research magic moment was when I realized I could independently troubleshoot a data analysis issue and explain my approach clearly during a check-in with Dr. Siedlik. That moment gave me a strong sense of capability and ownership over the project, which really boosted my confidence as a developing researcher. This confidence came from a mix of mastery experience and social persuasion; the trust Dr. Siedlik placed in me and the hours I had invested in learning and applying new methods.

*- Soni Sherpa, Summer Foundations Researcher, Biology*

# CHEMISTRY CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dominic Bolden** | **2/36** | | | *SURP* |
| *Colorimetric Characterization of Highly Fluorescent Ligands for Metal Cation Detection* | | Bianca Malone, Alana Davis | Dr. Pam Benz, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research; Department of Chemistry; Tanner Endowment |
| **Trent Callahan** | **3/70** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Reactions of copper(I) oxide with weak acids - triphenylphosphine complexes* | | None | Dr. Tim Royappa, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Yessenia Cintron** | **1/3** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Furanyl Derivatives as Renewably Sourced Redoxmers* | | None | Dr. Jacob Tracy HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Alana Davis** | **2/37** | | | *SURP* |
| *Computational Analysis of Ligand-Metal Binding* | | Bianca Malone, Dominic Bolden | Dr. Pam Benz, HMCSE - Chemistry | Tanner Endowment; Department of Chemistry; Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Shannah Dillman** | **2/27** | | | |
| *Buzzkill: A Heavy Metal Analysis of Honey* | | Trent Callahan, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Kyna Finley** | **2/32** | | | |
| *Gardening of the Galaxy: How Compost can Impact Growth and Nutrient Values of Plants in Earth, Lunar, and Martian Soil* | | None | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | Independent Research |

# CHEMISTRY CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Madison Jordan** | **3/69** | | | *SURP* |
| *Cupration of Weak Acids* | | None | Dr. Timothy Royappa, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Juan Kearney** | **3/54** | | | *SURP* |
| *Functionalization of Cyclodextrins* | | Davis Tran | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research; UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Wyatt Kirkpatrick** | **3/64** | | | *SURP* |
| *Macrocyclic Orthoamide Synthesis Methodology Evolution* | | Feliciano Rivera Rovira | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Chancy Lee** | **3/50** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Synthesis of Trifluoromethyl Alkynyl Ketones* | | None | Dr. Jacob Tracy, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Sara Lypko** | **1/4** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Synthesis and Crystallization of Rosocyanine* | | None | Dr. Tim Royappa, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Bianca Malone** | **1/10** | | | *SURP Legacy & Former U-RISE* |
| *Colorimetric Characterization of Highly Fluorescent Ligands for Metal Cation Detection & Computational Analysis of Ligand-Metal Binding* | | Dominic Bolden, Alana Davis | Dr. Pam Benz, HMCSE - Chemistry | Department of Chemistry; Office of Undergraduate Research; Tanner Endowment |
| **Gia Marsh** | **2/33** | | | *OUR Works* |
| *Good as Au: A Comparative Analysis of Girl Scout Cookies* | | George Shannon, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## MAGIC MOMENT

**This will be my second year doing SURP, I feel as though even getting the opportunity to do this is already a magic moment. Though if I had to pick a magic moment it would definitely be learning and using all of the instruments, new methods of using them, different modes, ways to utilize them to analyze samples and more, I am always enthusiastic to run instrumentation, even if it is time consuming getting promising results is the magic moment. Having everyone help eachother learn how to use and do everything is also a very communal activity and is rewarding on its own bringing a sort of lab culture to the table.**

*- Emily Twitchell, Legacy Researcher, Chemistry*

# CHEMISTRY CONT.

| Student / Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Luiz Martin** 3/68 | | | |
| *Triphenylphosphine amide copper(I) complexes* | Asa Vormittag, Jade Wheeler | Dr. Tim Royappa, HMCSE - Chemistry | Independent Research |
| **Elizabeth McConnell** 2/23 | | | |
| *Hocus Crocus? Saffron Quality Determination and Detection of Adulterants* | Samuel Santos, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Daniel Mikus** 3/49 | | | *SURP* |
| *Progress towards Amino Acid-derived Catholyte dimers for use in Redox Flow Batteries* | None | Dr. Jacob Tracy, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Breonna Munday** 2/29 | | | |
| *The Egg-cellent and The Egg-sposed: A Comparative Analysis of Protein, Mineral, and Heavy Metal Content in Poultry and Fish Eggs* | Jasmine Harrison, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Malane Qi** 1/5 | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Development of Environmentally Benign Electrophilic Cyclization Reaction* | Preston Chew, Dr. Tanay Kesharwani | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs; Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Ethan Sanz** 3/71 | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Optimization and Scale-Up of Copper(I) Phenylacetylide Synthesis* | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Orion Schulte** 2/26 | | | |
| *Determination of Furan in Coffee by GCMSMS* | Julia Beyer | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | Independent Research |
| **Mikayla Swatscheno** 3/51 | | | *U-RISE* |
| *Difluorination of Tetramic Acid Derivatives with a Green Solvent* | Benjamin Hensor, Victoria Hennick, Megan Brown | Dr. Jacob Tracy, HMCSE - Chemistry | |
| **Merle Swilley** 3/67 | | | *SURP* |
| *Synthesis of a Calpain Protein Active Site Mimic* | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |

# Reflections in Research: A Student Showcase

**During the summer 2024, OUR incorporated a reflective ePortfolio into the summer research experience.** We created a series of reflection prompts for students to critically think about their professional growth as a researcher at different key points in the program. Through these reflections, the students are able to observe their own development - as they recognize their contributions to the research process, as they begin to ask relevant questions and engage in dialogue with their mentors and peers, and as they start taking on more ownership of the research projects - and should begin to identify themselves as "researchers", a fundamental step on their professional journey.

During the summer 2025, OUR expanded the Research ePortfolio program. Students who are participating in summer research for the second time, the **"Legacy"** students**,** created more polished professional "showcase" ePortfolios with a public audience in mind - in particular related to future job or graduate school applications. Through Legacy workshops, the students discussed ePortfolio design concepts such as audience awareness, selection of representative work and visuals, and translation of their research experience to career readiness and skills development. This focus on documenting how the research experience transfers to other professional and academic contexts, even students in disciplines that do not typically use ePortfolios as part of their resume package benefit from the discussion and critical thinking involved in its creation.

***Please visit the Legacy students' posters alongside their ePortfolios in a special place on the first floor of the building.***

*Pictured: Bonnie Bruner,* ***Legacy Researcher****, plating human embryonic kidney cells for imaging.*

# MAGIC MOMENT

My four years of research have equipped me with advanced analytical thinking, problem-solving, and data driven decision-making skills. These abilities are my superpower, enabling me to uncover insights, innovate solutions, and drive meaningful results. Through my experience, I have been granted multiple oppurtunities to become involved in other STEM-based areas of my Univeristy, present my work nationally, and create an Undergraduate Thesis based on my research project. I am beyond thankful for the many mentors I have gained along the way and will bring all of what I have learned to the next step in my academic journey.

*- Bonnie Bruner, Legacy Researcher, Biology*

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Chemistry

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Davis Tran** | **3/55** | | | *SURP* |
| *Synthesis of a Unsymmetrical Polyamine Mimicking the Active Site of Carboxypeptidase A* | | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | UWF Academic Affairs |
| **Emily Twitchell** | **1/6** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Synthesizing and purification of an unsymmetrical triazaphenalene-type orthoamide intermediate* | | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Guenivier Ward** | **2/30** | | | |
| *Where's the Beef?; Taco Meat Analysis* | | Ava Gallagher, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Chyanne Womack** | **3/66** | | | *SURP* |
| *Synthesis of Triazacyclotridecane* | | None | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |
| **Hannah Woolson** | **2/28** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *A Pedagogical Synthesis of Aspirin for Implementation in a Secondary School Chemistry Lesson* | | None | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Taylor Wright** | **2/31** | | | |
| *Hit Me Baby One More Time: Consistency is Key For A Shot of Espresso* | | Mason Kellner, Orion Schulte | Dr. Karen Barnes, HMCSE - Chemistry | CHM4930 Topics In Adv Chem |
| **Amara Wynder** | **3/65** | | | *SURP* |
| *Palladium Catalyzed Synthesis of Solvent Orange-60* | | Wyatt Kirkpatrick | Dr. Ajay Lajmi, HMCSE - Chemistry | Office of Undergraduate Research; UWF Academic Affairs |

## MAGIC MOMENT

My research magic moment was when all my pea plants died and I had to completely redo my testing strategy from scratch. It started as a devastating failure but became a turning point where I realized I could adapt, problem-solve, and keep moving forward despite everything going wrong. This moment reshaped my self-confidence through a messy mix of emotional chaos, reluctant resilience, and the encouragement of mentors who helped me rebuild my experiment and my mindset

*- Summer Researcher*

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# Commerce

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Joyce Nguyen** | **4/99** | | | *SURP* |
| *How Hotels Can Win on Social Media* | | None | Dr. Xuan V. Tran, LBJCOB, Commerce | Lewis Bear Jr College of Business |
| **Nina Vu** | **4/100** | | | *SURP* |
| *Authentic Vietnamese Flavors: Research and Improvement Proposals for Vietnamese Restaurants in Pensacola* | | None | Dr. Xuan V. Tran, LBJCOB, Commerce | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# Computer Science

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kaio Nasser Silva** | **3/52** | | | *SURP* |
| *UWF-ZeekData22* | | None | Dr. Sikha Bagui, HMCSE - Computer Science | Department of Computer Science |
| **Koa New** | **4/75** | | | *SURP* |
| *Studying the Effectiveness of the Mobile Environment for Developing User Situation Awareness (MEDUSA) App* | | Ka Yan Harrison, Katalina Pho, Dr. Steven Kass, Ayden Craig, Zachary Tisdale, Derrike Nunn | Dr. Thomas Reichherzer, HMCSE - Computer Science | Department of Computer Science |
| **Sebastian Ruiz Maldonado** | **3/53** | | | *SURP* |
| *DSCAN on ZeekData to detect attacks* | | None | Dr. Sikha Bagui, HMCSE - Computer Science | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## MAGIC MOMENT

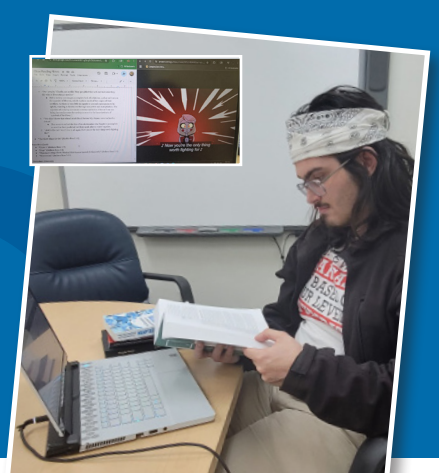
My research magic moment was when I went to the hotel to collect data and film for my project. Although the weather was expected to be 80 percent rainy that day, the weather turned out to be sunny at that time. The unexpected sunshine not only made filming of higher quality but also boosted my self-confidence because it felt like a sign that things were going to go well.

*- Summer Researcher*

## MAGIC MOMENT

I have no problem telling others about what I am researching, but I never imagined there would be so many people that are interested in what I am doing. Of course, that's probably because it is an everyday activity for me, but I love hearing their genuine intrigue (especially when they ask questions). I even had someone tell me that my notes read like some of the papers they had to take in their grad level classes, and I swear I about cried!

*- Damien Cruikshank, Summer Researcher, English*



*Pictured above: Damien Cruikshank - Close Reading in Action; Inset: Searching for academic sources.*

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# Cybersecurity & Information Technology

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Olivia Bunch** | **3/56** | | | *SURP* |
| *ARGObot: A Conversational Assistant for Academic Advisors to Enhance Student Engagement and Optimize Information Delivery Using Advanced Language Models* | | None | Dr. Maryam Taeb, HMCSE - Cyber/IT | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# Earth & Environmental Sciences

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Savannah Braswell** | **2/15** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Mapping Water Quality Parameters and Thalassia Occurrence in Eastern Santa Rosa Sound* | | Jocelynn Lindgren | Dr. Matthew Schwartz, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Jocelynn Lindren** | **2/14** | | | *SURP* |
| *Mapping Water Quality Parameters and Thalassia Occurrence in Eastern Santa Rosa Sound* | | Savannah Braswell | Dr. Matthew Schwartz, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Alex MacDonald** | **4/82** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *CURE-Based Learning in STEM Education* | | None | Emily P. Harris, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Office of Undergraduate Research |

# EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Aspen Schelonka** | **2/18** | | | *SURP* |
| *University of West Florida Campus Ecosystem Study: Effects of Permanent Openings on Longleaf Pine Regeneration* | | Sydney Howard, Alyssa Sosa, Oliver Smith | Dr. Frank Gilliam, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Department of EES; Office of Undergraduate Research; John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |
| **Taylor Smith** | **4/74** | | | *SURP* |
| *Investigation of Land Use Changes Under Projected Sea Level Rise Regimes* | | None | Dr. John D. Morgan, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Avi Williams** | **4/83** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *The Ripple Effect: Research in General Education* | | None | Emily P. Harris, HMCSE - Earth & Environmental Sciences | Office of Undergraduate Research |

# POSTER PRESENTATION
# Electrical & Computer Engineering

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Faith Buttitta** | **4/86** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Maximizing Flight Duration: Hybrid Power Systems for UAV Optimization* | | Christian Marcellino, Mike Redmyer, Kaitlyn Williams, Daniel Nascimento de Andrade | Dr. Tarek Youssef, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research; Bear Family Foundation Eng Program; Webb Electric Company of Florida, Inc. |
| **Jonathan Lavoie** | **4/91** | | | *SURP* |
| *Launching UWF to RoboSub 2025: Mechanical Interactions* | | None | Dr. Tarek Youssef, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Gulf Power Engineering Fund |
| **Jade Palewicz** | **4/92** | | | *SURP* |
| *Launching UWF to RoboSub 2025: Computer Vision* | | None | Dr. Tarek Youssef, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Webb Electric Company of Florida, Inc. |

# ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Codi Petersen** | **4/93** | | | *SURP* |
| *Launching UWF to Robosub 2025: Tagging System Design* | | None | Dr. Tarek Youssef, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Gulf Power Engineering Fund |
| **Carson Salvator** | **4/90** | | | *SURP Light* |
| *Battlefield-Integrated Reconnaissance Drone (BIRD)* | | Brooke Babin, Keanu Peoples | Dr. Hakki Sevil, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Magdalena Vongkasemsiri** | **2/17** | | | *SURP* |
| *Investigating the Release of VOCs and Microplastics by 3D Printers* | | None | Sam Russel, HMCSE - Electrical & Computer Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS
## English

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alex (Damien) Cruikshank** | **2/19** | | | *OUR Works + SURP* |
| *To Err is Human: An Analysis of Sin as a Social Construct as Portrayed in Vivienne Medrano's Hazbin Hotel and Helluva Boss* | | None | Dr. Kevin Scott, CASSH - English | Office of Undergraduate Research |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS
## Mathematics & Statistics

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dru Adams** | **4/94** | | | *SURP* |
| *Temporal Trends in Sea Turtle Nesting: Effects of Environmental and Anthropogenic Events* | | None | Dr. Samantha Seals, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Atiye Buker** | **2/21** | | | *SURP* |
| *Feature Engineering for Systematically Assessing Clinical Trial Feasibility* | | None | Dr. Achraf Cohen, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Department of Mathematics & Statistics |

# MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS CONT.

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Geru Mejia Rojas** | **4/89** | | | *SURP* |
| *Random construction of linear spaces and Steiner systems* | | None | Dr. Jorge Flores, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Emmanuel Paalam** | **1/7** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Accelerating Feasible Clinical Trial Design: A Machine Learning Study Using Features Engineered from Unstructured and Tabular AACT Data* | | None | Dr. Achraf Cohen, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Department of Mathematics & Statistics |
| **Brianna Perea** | **1/8** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Kumaraswamy Exponentiated Odds Ratio Family of Distributions* | | Declan McGurk, Sean Fang, Michael Fang | Dr. Shusen Pu, HMCSE - Mathematics & Statistics | Office of Undergraduate Research; UWF Academic Affairs |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## Mechanical Engineering

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Kira Benton** | **4/76** | | | *SURP* |
| *Sonoluminescence within a Magnetic Field* | | None | John Stutz, HMCSE - Mechanical Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Vanessa Lopez** | **4/84** | | | *SURP* |
| *Matrix Configurations for Carbon-Reinforced Running Specific Prosthesis (RSP)* | | None | Dr. Maher Amer, HMCSE - Mechanical Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Andrew Puharic** | **2/16** | | | *SURP* |
| *NASA HERC RC Rover* | | None | Dr. Maher Amer, HMCSE - Mechanical Engineering | Bear Family Foundation Engineering Program |
| **Ethan Shelstad** | **4/85** | | | *SURP* |
| *Mycorrhizae Signal Detection and Processing* | | None | Dr. Maher Amer, HMCSE - Mechanical Engineering | Bear Family Foundation Engineering Program |
| **Kaitlyn Williams** | **4/77** | | | *SURP* |
| *An Analysis of Mach-dependent Decrease in Drag on Inverted Nozzle Projectile Bases* | | None | John Stutz, HMCSE - Mechanical Engineering | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

# Movement Sciences & Health

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ava Baldauf** | **2/39** | | | *SURP* |
| *Plantar cutaneous sensitivity and gait parameters in patients with chronic ankle instability* | | Jamie Campbell | Dr. Jeffrey Simpson, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Kristen Bouington** | **2/38** | | | *SURP* |
| *Investigating the effect of Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation (tVNS) on pain management in knee and hip osteoarthritis* | | None | Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Alana Centeno Sanchez** | **2/41** | | | *SURP* |
| *The Effect of Daily Stretching on Mobility and Functional Performance in First Responders* | | None | Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Emily Miller** | **3/72** | | | *SURP* |
| *Barriers and Facilitators to Adoption and Use of Sport Performance Analytic Data Among Collegiate Soccer Coaches* | | None | Dr. John Todorovich, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Usha Kundu, MD College of Health |
| **Jonathan Peterson** | **3/73** | | | *SURP* |
| *Analyzing Soccer Coaches' Understanding on their University Athletes' Data* | | Emily Miller | Dr. John Todorovich, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Henry (Fisher) Pike** | **4/88** | | | *SURP* |
| *The Effect of Whole-Body Vibration Therapy on Perceived Performance and Recovery in Collegiate Athletes* | | Marina Winans | Marina Winans & Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Hayden Struckel** | **4/87** | | | *SURP* |
| *Targeted Neuromodulation with the Shiftwave Chair: Advancing Pain Management and Quality of Life in Individuals with non-specific chronic low back pain* | | Marina Winans, Jessica Corpuz | Dr. Armaghan Mahmoudian, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Sophie Tarantino** | **2/40** | | | *SURP* |
| *Investigating the impact of cognitive dual tasking and knee muscle fatigue on gait characteristics in healthy athletes* | | Jamie Campbell | Dr. Jeffrey Simpson, UKCOH - Movement Sciences & Health | Office of Undergraduate Research |

## MAGIC MOMENTs

My Summer 2025 experience has allowed me to grow into a resilient scientist with an even greater passion for seabirds, especially the Black Skimmer. I found myself having to shift gears on my project from the time I submitted my proposal to weeks before the end of the summer symposium; however, these obstacles opened my eyes to the reality of research in this field and the value of an open mind and flexibility.

One of my most memorable experiences while conducting this study had to be when I was collecting water samples with my little brother near a nesting colony. As we were walking along the beach to the second sampling site, we came across two coastal stewards who showed us through their telescopes the new baby Black Skimmer hatchling with its parents. This was a very special moment for me that further instilled my drive to learn about these seabirds and hopefully contribute to the protection of this species through the completion of my project.

***- Katherine Lundgren, Legacy Researcher, Biology***

*My research magic moment was when I got my first interview for my soccer analytic research. I felt over the moon to finally see it come together for the first time. After the interview I was overjoyed with the confidence t hat I just spoke to someone at a hug University who took the time to talk with me on my topic.*

***- Emily Miller, Summer Researcher, Exercise Science***

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Physics

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Madalyn Chavarria Service** | **2/13** | | | *SURP* |
| *Spectral profiling of a mixture of Raman active gasses for LiDAR applications* | | None | Dr. Aaron Wade, HMCSE - Physics | Office of Undergraduate Research |
| **Arav Jain** | **1/9** | | | *SURP Legacy* |
| *Computational Study to Derive the Relationship Between the Raman shift and Pressure of Gas Phase Molecule Interactions* | | None | Dr. Aaron Wade, HMCSE - Physics | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS
# Public Health

| Student | Floor/Panel | Co-Author(s) | Faculty Mentor | Summer Program/ Funding Support |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Claudi Li** | **2/20** | | | *SURP* |
| *Barriers and Facilitators of Accessing Mental Health Services Among College-Going Youth* | | None | Dr. Karishma Chhabria Unrue, UKCOH - Public Health | John Thayer & Joan Ames Burr Undergraduate Research |

# Supporting Student Research and Professional Growth

### Benefits of Summer Research:

During the summer, we take student research to the next level through our summer research programs. Student researchers receive a stipend as well as funds to purchase materials and supplies for their research projects -- an investment that is invaluable to these students and which allows them to fully engage in research in a way that isn't possible during the academic year. In addition to devoting significant time and energy to their research projects under theclose supervision of a faculty member, research students work with OUR throughout the summer to develop professional skills, such as communicating their research to various audiences, connecting research to job-ready skills, and learning how to network.

### Professional Development Workshops:

Summer Research students participate in weekly professional development workshops to build soft skills, such as communication and networking. We try to make these workshops as engaging as possible, getting students up on their feet and talking to each other and sometimes campus guests. Some examples of these workshops include "Chalk Talks" and the Mocktail Networking Party.

**Chalk Talks** are quick summaries of their research that students give to small groups. The chalk talks aren't prepared presentations, but are instead more impromptu discussions with their peers. During the unscripted presentations, students are encouraged to sketch out experiments, processes, or cycles that may be part of their research projects to help support the discussion. Chalk talks have proved to be really powerful tools for research students gaining confidence in communicating their research, especially to non-expert audiences.

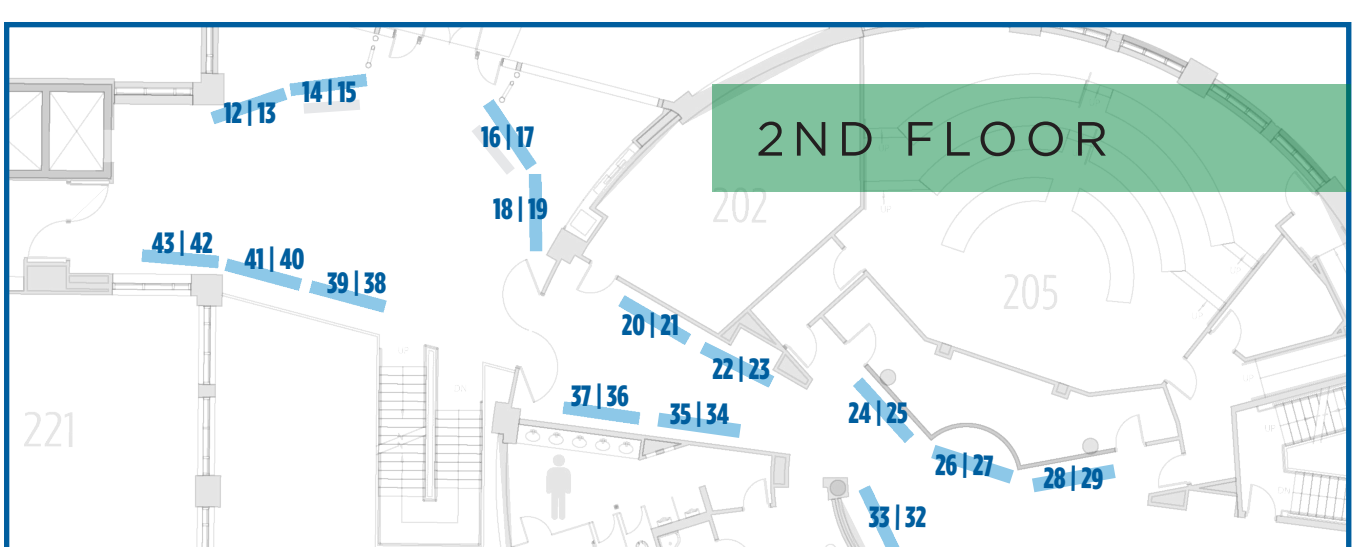
OUR hosts a **Mocktail Networking Party** every summer and invites UWF faculty and staff from Career Services, the Library, and other departments to attend and talk with the research students. The networking party is low-stakes practice for our students with less structured, but extremely important, "chit chat" that happens in professional settings and can often lead to collaborations or partnerships around shared interests.

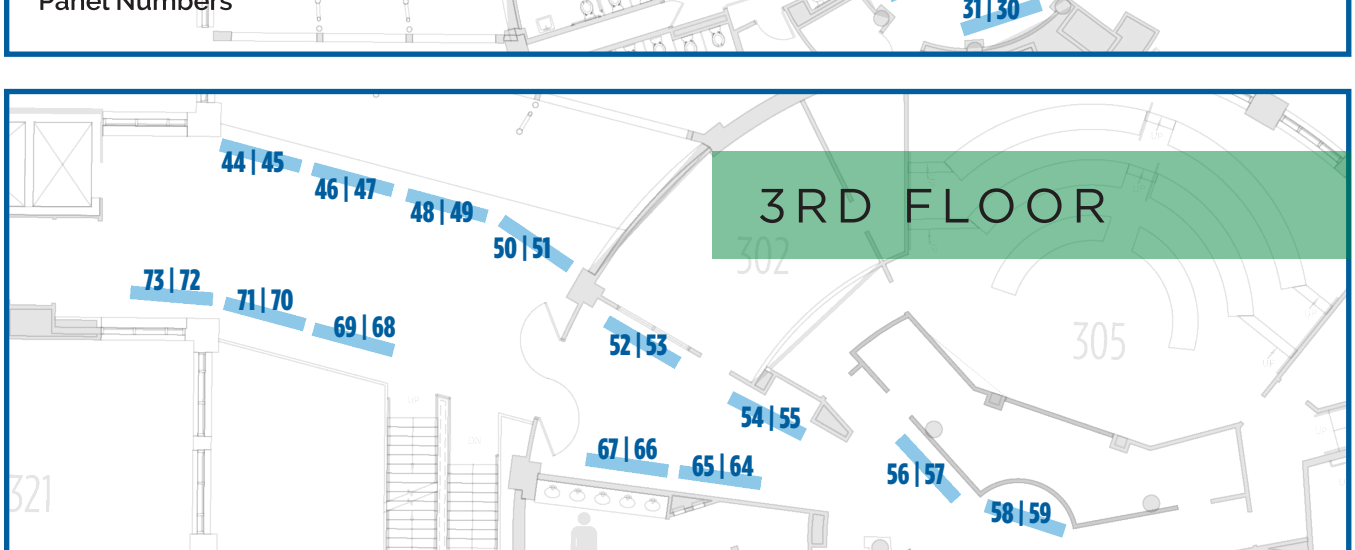
**Name Goes Here**, *Title*

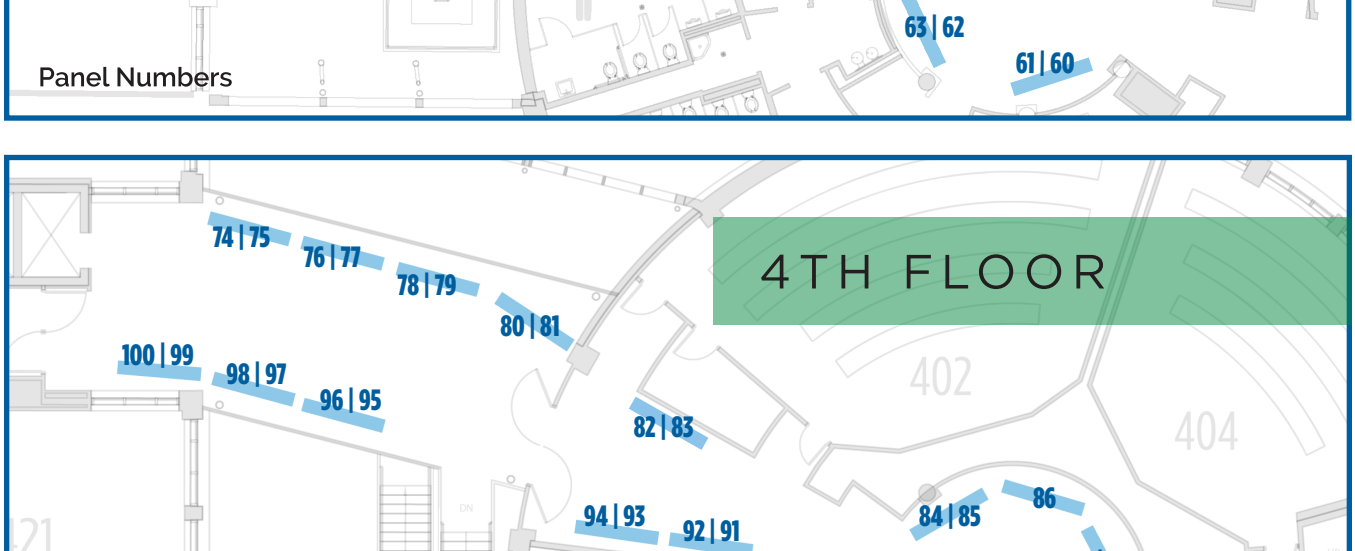
## Empowering Research at Every Level

The Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) is a centralized office that supports student and faculty engagement in undergraduate research campus-wide. This support occurs through (1) student programs, (2) faculty programs, and (3) advocacy and engagement in the campus community. At UWF, students who engage with faculty on research projects are more connected to their disciplines, more successful during their time at UWF, and better prepared for future careers. OUR helps undergraduate students find research projects, secure funding for research, build skills that help make them more successful in research and beyond, and provide opportunities for them to practice communicating about their research.

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS MAP



| LAST | FIRST | FL/Panel # | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | Dru | 4 | 94 |
| Allgeyer | Julia | 3 | 44 |
| Bacon | Sean | 3 | 57 |
| Baldauf | Ava | 2 | 39 |
| Benton | Kira | 4 | 76 |
| Beyer | Julia | 2 | 24 |
| Beyer | Julia | 2 | 25 |
| Blau | Itamar | 3 | 48 |
| Bolden | Dominic | 2 | 36 |
| Bouington | Kristen | 2 | 38 |
| Braswell | Savannah | 2 | 15 |
| Brown | Natasha | 4 | 78 |
| Bruner | Bonnie | 1 | 1 |
| Buker | Atiye | 2 | 21 |
| Bunch | Olivia | 3 | 56 |
| Buttitta | Faith | 4 | 86 |
| Callahan | Trent | 3 | 70 |
| Centeno Sanchez | Alana | 2 | 41 |
| Chavarria Service | Madalyn | 2 | 13 |
| Cintron | Yessenia | 1 | 3 |
| Constant | Emma | 2 | 35 |
| Cruikshank | Alex (Damien) | 2 | 19 |
| Davis | Alana | 2 | 37 |
| Dillman | Shannah | 2 | 27 |
| Duval | Dustin | 4 | 95 |
| Feldman | Jacob | 2 | 42 |
| Finley | Kyna | 2 | 32 |
| Flannigan | Joseph | 3 | 60 |
| Goodman | Carly | 3 | 58 |
| Gray | Alyssa-James | 4 | 96 |
| Hanners | Caleb | 3 | 63 |
| Heenan | Chelsey | 3 | 47 |
| Hubbard | Ella | 3 | 45 |
| Jain | Arav | 1 | 9 |
| Jiang | Jefferson | 2 | 22 |
| Jordan | Madison | 3 | 69 |
| Joseph | Josephine | 2 | 12 |
| Kearney | Juan | 3 | 54 |
| Kirkpatrick | Wyatt | 3 | 64 |
| Kliche | Alayna | 3 | 61 |
| Knight | Imani (Dante) | 4 | 80 |
| Lavoie | Jonathan | 4 | 91 |
| Lee | Chancy | 3 | 50 |
| Li | Claudia | 2 | 20 |
| Lindgren | Jocelynn | 2 | 14 |
| Lopez | Vanessa | 4 | 84 |
| Lundgren | Katherine | 1 | 2 |
| Lypko | Sara | 1 | 4 |
| Lyublanovits | Bryley | 3 | 62 |
| MacDonald | Alex | 4 | 82 |
| Malone | Bianca | 1 | 10 |
| Marsh | Gia | 2 | 33 |
| Martin | Luiz | 3 | 68 |
| McConnell | Elizabeth | 2 | 23 |
| McGurk | Declan | 2 | 34 |
| Mejia Rojas | Geru | 4 | 89 |
| Mikus | Daniel | 3 | 49 |
| Miller | Emily | 3 | 72 |
| Mills | Lauren | 2 | 43 |
| Munday | Breonna | 2 | 29 |
| Murphy | Kainan | 4 | 97 |
| Nasser Silva | Kaio | 3 | 52 |
| New | Koa | 4 | 75 |
| Nguyen | Joyce | 4 | 99 |
| Paalam | Emmanuel | 1 | 7 |
| Palewicz | Jade | 4 | 92 |
| Perea | Brianna | 1 | 8 |
| Petersen | Codi | 4 | 93 |
| Peterson | Jonathan | 3 | 73 |
| Pike | Henry (Fisher) | 4 | 88 |
| Puharic | Andrew | 2 | 16 |
| Qi | Malane | 1 | 5 |
| Ruiz Maldonado | Sebastian | 3 | 53 |
| Salandy | Zoe | 3 | 46 |
| Salvator | Carson | 4 | 90 |
| Sanz | Ethan | 3 | 71 |
| Schelonka | Aspen | 2 | 18 |
| Schulte | Orion | 2 | 26 |
| Shelstad | Ethan | 4 | 85 |
| Sirois | Lily | 4 | 81 |
| Smith | Taylor | 4 | 74 |
| Struckel | Hayden | 4 | 87 |
| Swatscheno | Mikayla | 3 | 51 |
| Swilley | Merle | 3 | 67 |
| Tarantino | Sophie | 2 | 40 |
| Tomlinson | Evan | 4 | 79 |
| Tran | Davis | 3 | 55 |
| Turpin | Hunter | 4 | 98 |
| Twitchell | Emily | 1 | 6 |
| Vongkasemsiri | Magdalena | 2 | 17 |
| Vu | Nina | 4 | 100 |
| Ward | Guenivier | 2 | 30 |
| Williams | Tate | 1 | 11 |
| Williams | Kaitlyn | 4 | 77 |
| Williams | Avi | 4 | 83 |
| Wimberly | D'Juan | 3 | 59 |
| Womack | Chyanne | 3 | 66 |
| Woolson | Hannah | 2 | 28 |
| Wright | Taylor | 2 | 31 |
| Wynder | Amara | 3 | 65 |

# More MAGIC MOMENTs

My Research magic moment was when I started to gradually improve my code after trying many different approaches. It was really motivating because I felt that I was able to get great results by using my creativity. My mentor was really helpful throughout the process of improving my programs since he is always willing to answer my questions. Also, it impacted my confidence because at the very beginning I was not sure if I was going to understand some complex concepts of mathematics but now I feel that I can explain what I am studying in detail. The events that contributed to this moment were our meetings with me mentor and just my persistent attitude to spend several hours a day to understand the concepts of my project and improve my methods to get better findings..

*- Geru Mejia Rojas, Summer Researcher, Mathematics & Statistics*

My research magic moment was when I went on my first big data collection trip out in the field. It was a whole day packed with snorkeling, collecting samples, and learning field techniques I had never heard of before. It was the first time in this project that I really felt I 'belonged' in research; the trip really helped kick my imposter syndrome. The moment really boosted my self-confidence in ways I didn't expect. Although I went in knowing absolutely nothing, I left that trip feeling so much more knowledgeable and capable. My mentor, the amazing Dr. Caffrey, never discouraged me from asking the 'embarrassing' questions, and made sure I was both learning and having fun. My lab partner, Sierra Rich, did a very similar project last year; she basically took me under her wing and helped me through the motions...I'm honestly really bummed that the project is nearly over - my work with them has been, without a doubt, the best school experience I've ever had.

I remember her first time showing me how to gauge percent coverage with the quadrats while snorkeling... I was so scared of getting it wrong, but she eased my nerves and figured out how to teach me in the ways I learn best. In slower moments when we had breaks to chat, Dr. Caffrey took the time explaining the local ecology and how things related to the species we were studying. She does a fantastic job at meeting me where I am and breaking things down to the informational level I need. Having the both of them as my guides in the field seriously made so many valuable moments that I will never forget. They're truly, in a positive way, shaping me into the independent researcher I will soon become...

*- Lily Sirois, Summer Researcher, Biology*


*1.* ***Magdalena Vongkasemsiri*** *assembling the sensor boxes for printer emissions.*

*2.* ***Lily Sirois*** *recording Halodule wrightii, macroalgae, and epiphytes at a Santa Rosa Sound collection site.*

*3.* ***Avi Williams*** *and* ***Alex MacDonald*** *working with their faculty mentor on determining best places to install air quality sensors used for the Introduction to Earth Sciences course and the course-based undergraduate research experience focused on investigating local air quality trends.*

*4.* ***Emmanuel Paalam*** *formally posing with his SURP 2025 research presentation poster.*

Office of Undergraduate Research
UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA

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