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## Cal Poly Students Succeed at Statewide Research Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Four Cal Poly projects placed first and one earned a second-place award at the recent 28th annual statewide California State University Student Research Competition.

More than 200 students from campuses throughout the CSU gathered at Cal State East Bay on May 2-3 to present the results of their original research to panels of judges. The competition is geared to both graduate and undergraduates students and has 10 categories: Behavioral and Social Sciences; Biological and Agricultural Sciences; Business, Economics, and Public Administration; Creative Arts and Design; Education; Engineering and Computer Science; Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences; Humanities and Letters; Physical and Mathematical Sciences; and Interdisciplinary.

A team of 10 students represented Cal Poly with projects that included a system to assist online game developers to more easily create soundtracks, a device to improve blood flow in damaged cardiac blood vessels, and an analysis of how corporate farms impact the food availability of their region.

The Cal Poly winners were:

- Conor Camplisson, an undergraduate biochemistry student from [San Marcos, Calif.](#), received a first-place award in the undergraduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category for his project on improvements to microPADs, paper devices being developed to obtain simple, low-cost data for medical diagnoses.
- Jason Cox, a graduate civil engineering student from [Fresno](#), earned a first-place award in the graduate Engineering and Computer Science category for his work in developing a cost-effective system for adding moisture to waste in landfills to optimize compaction.
- Guilhem DeHoe, an undergraduate chemistry student from [Sunnyvale](#), won first place in the undergraduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category for his research to synthesize polymers that improve the dispersion of carbon nanotubes in water-based coatings for spray-on electrode applications to fuel cells.
- Haydn Thomas Mitchell, a graduate polymers and coatings student from [St. Thomas, Virgin Islands](#), won second place in the graduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category for his work on fine-tuning color representation in digital images to more easily obtain measurable medical data with microPADs.
- Grant Olson, a graduate polymers and coatings student from [Saratoga](#), won first place in the graduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category for his project to determine the ability of polymer-based composites to be used as more flexible and less expensive materials in the manufacturing of hybrid solar cells.

All participants were nominated by their respective colleges and then selected in a preliminary competition at Cal Poly. Final competitors submitted written papers and made oral presentations to juries of experts.

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