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Cal Poly Students Succeed at Statewide CSU Research Competition

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Six Cal Poly students won awards at the recent 27th annual California State University Student Research Competition, held this year at Cal Poly Pomona.

Each spring more than 200 students representing campuses through the CSU system gather on one of the campuses to present the results of their original research, scholarship and creative work to panels of judges.

The competition is grouped into 10 categories: Biological and Agricultural Sciences; Business, Economics, and Public Administration; Physical and Mathematical Sciences; Engineering and Computer Science; Humanities and Letters; Creative Arts and Design; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Health, Nutrition and Clinical Sciences; Education; and Interdisciplinary.

Cal Poly sent 10 students whose projects included a study on using heat responsiveness to “heal” damaged coatings, research on improving engineered blood vessels, and a case study analysis of initiatives aimed at solving hunger around the world.

Allee Macrorie and Bijan Ghaffari, undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry students from Truckee, Calif., and Boulder, Colo., respectively, won first in the Education category for their project in which they used their knowledge of nuclear magnetic resonance-based kinetics to design laboratory experiments for undergraduate chemistry classes.

Christopher Pattillo, an undergraduate chemistry student from Kirkland, Wash., took first place for his work in developing surfaces that respond to ultra-violet light. His research was entered in the Undergraduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category.

Second-place finisher Dahlia Ningrum, a polymers and coatings graduate from Templeton, Calif., competed in the Graduate Physical and Mathematical Sciences category with her project on coatings that can heal when exposed to heat.

Rachel Gobres, a biomedical engineering graduate student from Murrieta, Calif., took second place in the Graduate Health, Nutrition and Clinical Sciences category for her study of how protein coatings affect endothelial cell adhesion in an effort to improve implanted vascular devices.

Josh Cutts, an undergraduate biomedical engineering student from Honolulu, won second place in the Undergraduate Health, Nutrition and Clinical Sciences category for his work examining the use of arterialized capillary collateral vessels as a potential therapy for patients with ischemic diseases.

Also representing Cal Poly were biological sciences student Michael Garland, computer science student Devlin Cronin, political science student Amy McDonnell, and chemistry student Neil Redeker.

All participants were first 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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