



## URConnections

From your Undergraduate Research Center Peer Advisors

February 2018 | Issue 27

Hello Aggies! We hope you are having a great winter quarter and are getting prepared for the upcoming **Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference!** We have many different workshops and awards coming your way that will enhance your research experience here at UC Davis.

## Research Awards & Opportunities!

### 2018 Lang Prize Undergraduate Research Awards!

The UC Davis Library is pleased to announce the submission period has begun for **the 2nd annual Lang Prize**. This prize, which has awards as high as \$1,000, acknowledges undergraduate students for their exceptional research projects in which they use resources at the **UC Davis Library**. Students who enter between now and **April 9, 2018** could be eligible for first, second or third-place awards in either the **arts, humanities & social sciences, or science, engineering and math**.

To learn more, apply or see last year's winners, visit [library.ucdavis.edu/lang-prize](http://library.ucdavis.edu/lang-prize)

### 2018-2019 Beckman Scholars Program!

This prestigious program provides substantial monetary support for undergraduate research. Eligibility requirements are as follows: **U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, minimum GPA of 3.5, major in science or engineering, continuously enrolled undergraduate through at least spring quarter 2019, and available to participate in research as follows: Full-time Summer 2018; Part-time Academic year 2018-19; Full-time Summer 2019.**

(Note: students graduating spring 2019 are eligible to apply as long as they are committed to full-time participation in summer 2019, immediately following graduation.)

Applications Due by **February 16, 2018 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Information is available here: <http://urc.ucdavis.edu/programs/beckman.html>

## Upcoming Workshops!

### How to Get Involved with Research

In this workshop you can learn the skills about how to approach a professor regarding a research opportunity!

Wednesday 2/7/18, 4:10-5pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

### Undergraduate Research Conference Info Sessions

We will discuss the benefits of presenting research and answer questions about the conference logistics!

Friday 2/9/18, 12:10-1pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

### How to Make an Effective Research Poster

Wednesday 3/7/18, 4:10-5pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

Thursday 3/8/18, 6:10-7pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

### Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Info Sessions

Wednesday 3/7/18, 12:10-1pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

Thursday 3/7/18, 3:10-4pm

Meeting Room D in the SCC

## Leading & Breaking Barriers

*In Research, Higher Education, and Industry*

Leading and Breaking Barriers is a collaborative project initiated by staff in the CAMP, McNair, MURALS, MURPPS, and UC LEADS undergraduate research programs.

The speaker series is open to the public, and is made possible through a UC Davis Diversity and Inclusion Innovation Grant.



## Speaker Series: Leading and Breaking Barriers

### Leading for Equality in High Education

Oscar Dubón, PhD, Professor of Material Science and Engineering  
Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion at University of California, Berkeley  
Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> 2018, 4:10-5pm at the MPR in the SCC

**RSVP HERE:** <https://urc.ucdavis.edu/events/barriers.html>



# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference

**POSTER SESSIONS**  
Friday, April 27, 2018  
3:00 - 7:00 pm  
ARC PAVILION

**ARTS EXHIBIT**  
Friday, April 27, 2018  
3:00 - 7:00 pm  
ARC PAVILION

**ORAL SESSIONS**  
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
1:00 - 4:30 pm  
WELLMAN HALL

Sponsored by: Undergraduate Research Center, Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, University Library



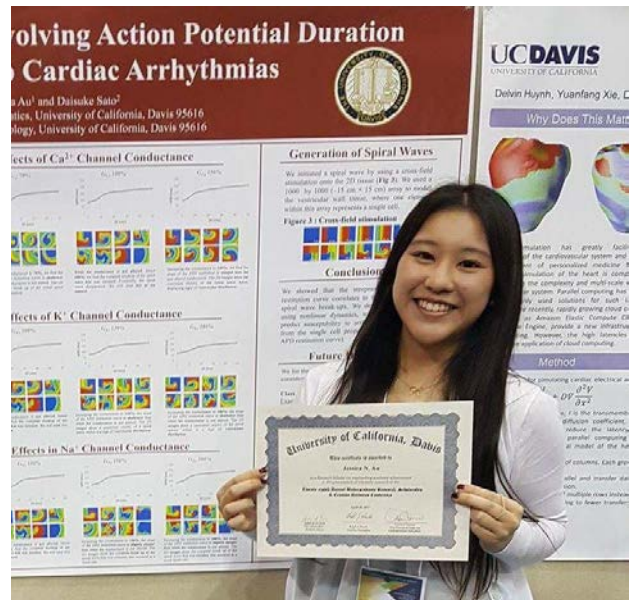
## Advice and Feedback from Last Year's Presenters!

We reached out to some of last year's presenters from the oral sessions, poster sessions, as well as the arts exhibit to get their answers on their experience from what was most difficult to most exciting about their conference experience and what they would like to share for those participating this year!

### What was the most difficult part in preparing for the conference? How did you overcome this?

"The most difficult part of preparing for the conference was making my poster. My research was about using math in order to study cardiac arrhythmias, so it was difficult to really convey what I did in a cohesive way without all the jargon. I spent a lot of time planning out what I was going to say before even working on my poster and did many small practice presentations to my close friends/lab mates."

- **Jessica Au:** Mathematical and Scientific Computation, "Nonlinear Dynamics of Cardiac Action Potential and Its Relation to Cardiac Arrhythmias"



"The most difficult part for me was the fact that I had really never presented research before and I wasn't sure how to adapt a paper into something I could give orally. However, I had an incredibly supportive professor who helped coach me on how to adapt it. And most importantly, I practiced it several times before presenting. This helped me feel good and comfortable."

-**Jacqueline Gordon:** English, "The Aesthetics of Nature and Art in Medieval Literature"

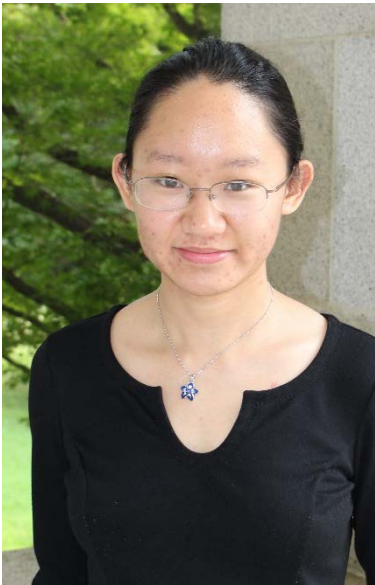
## What was the most memorable part of the conference for you?

“The most memorable part of the conference was hearing the questions of different people who were walking around looking at the posters. People had fascinating questions and comments which made me even more passionate about my project. It was really fun to explain my research to people and less scary than I imagined.”

-**Ingrid Rosenthal**: Linguistics, “Phonological Features of Jewish American Language”



## What advice would you give to future presenters?



“Don’t be afraid to talk to someone who may have shyly wandered to your project. They may be waiting for you to say something to them first and once you get the conversation going, you are home free. Remember that you make your presentation interesting, not your poster.”

-**Shuyi Qi**: Art Studio, “Abstract and Representational Views of Nature: Water Rippled and Reflections”

“Don’t stress, be authentic, and just enjoy the experience. It is fun to share ideas you’re passionate about, and that is exactly what the Undergraduate Research Conference is about.”

-**Douglas Kleinsmith**: Art Studio, “Every Painter Paints Themselves: Abstraction, Technology and the Self.”





Don't forget to show your support for UC Davis research by attending the Undergraduate Research Conference. The conference is being held in the ARC pavilion on April 27th and Wellman Hall on April 28th. Admission is free for all!

## Fixing Misconceptions!

**I can only present at the Undergraduate Research Conference if my research has been completed.**

Not true! A lot of presenters at the conference are currently conducting research even after they present. The conference is to showcase the different projects that undergraduate students engage in at UC Davis.

**Doing a poster presentation is easier than doing an oral presentation.**

Poster presentations and oral presentations have different features that make them comparable in difficulty. Oral presentation requires slides and time for unique questions while poster presentations have to be presented to many people rotating through with different degrees of understanding. Each can be harder or easier depending on the person.

**Everybody who applies to the Undergraduate Research Conference is eligible to participate.**

This year, there are two registration dates: February 13th and February 20th. Those who apply by February 13th have priority registration. Those who apply by February 20th may or may not be able to participate depending on space availability. We strongly encourage you to apply as soon as possible for a wonderful experience at the URConference!

**Presented research is only science-based and too advanced for me to understand.**

This is not true at all! Research that is presented represents a wide range of majors and fields at UC Davis including Economics, Business, Math, Art, Literature and much more! A lot of our presenters have worked hard to create posters and presentations that are understandable and comprehensible for all. The point is to have a conversation about the application and significance of the project beyond the research setting. You will also be able to learn new things and engage with the presenter about their project through discussion and questions!

## Contact Us!

If you're interested in scheduling a one-on-one appointment or have an interesting story or tip about research to share for our issues, please contact Gabby or Meghal:

**Phone:** (530) 752-3390

**Email:** [urc@ucdavis.edu](mailto:urc@ucdavis.edu)

**Location:** 2300 Student Community Center, 2nd Floor

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Website:** [urc.ucdavis.edu](http://urc.ucdavis.edu)

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