2018 LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Sinda Vanderpool
Associate Vice Provost for Academic Enrollment Management
Executive Vice President and Provost Office
Paul Foster Success Center

For efforts, in concert with the McNair granting and organizational team, in preparing a successful application for Baylor’s first McNair grant, thereby making a major contribution to available funding supporting undergraduate research and opening new opportunities for students from first generation, low income or under-represented groups.

With this award URSA also recognizes and thanks key members of the McNair team, including Baylor administrators, faculty, staff, graduate students, and non-Baylor consultants: Susan Bratton, Shirl Brown, Michelle Cohenour, Jewell Lockridge, Lisa McKethan, Elizabeth Palacios, Rachel Renbarger, Sarah Jane Murray, Lakia Scott, Joanna Spitz, Jasmine Stovall, Jorge Vielledent, Meaghan Wheelis, Emma Wood and Capri Woolridge.

Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer
Senior Lecturer
Program Director, Science Living and Learning Center
Director, Science Research Fellows, College of Arts and Sciences

For repeated contributions to expanding undergraduate research opportunities, including organizing numerous events for pre-health students, for foundational leadership of the Science Living and Learning Center, for efforts to establish the Science Research Fellows major track in the College of Arts and Sciences, for administrative support of the B-TRUE program, and as a founder of WISE, for assistance to female students in constructively addressing the social barriers they encounter in entering scientific research careers.

Baylor Undergraduate Research in Science and Technology

Officers and the Events Committee

Courtney Smith, William Chan, Jianna Lin, Paul Early,
Zachary Pranske, Grace Kohn, Kiersten Scott, and Emily Ziperman
Advisors: Dr. Tamarah Adair, Dr. Susan Bratton, Dr. Brian Raines

For further developing the fall workshop orienting undergraduate colleagues towards summer research opportunities and internships, for the continued improvement of Scientia, and for outstanding efforts to enrich the educational experience of fellow undergraduates.
2018 LEADERSHIP AWARD

Baylor Undergraduates @ The Veterans Administration Center of Excellence Research Program

Dr. Sara Dolan, Dr. Paul Fillmore, and Dr. Richard Sanker
(Baylor University)

Dr. Richard Seim, Dr. Laura Zambrano-Vazquez, Dr. Justin Benzer, Dr. Bryann DeBeer, Dr. Sheila Frankfurt, Dr. Evan Gordon, Dr. Rakeshwar Guleria, Dr. Geoffrey May, Dr. Eric Meyer, Dr. Joseph Mignogna, Dr. Steven Nelson, and Dr. Yvette Szabo (Veterans Administration VISN 17 Center of Excellence)

For expanding professionally and socially meaningful research opportunities for Baylor undergraduates in the pre-health program and in health-related majors, for providing mentorship for research presentations and publications of exceptional quality, and for opening routes to future careers.

With this award URSA also recognizes the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, the Department of Speech and Communication Disorders, Baylor Pre-health Programs, and the Co-operating Staff and Physicians at the Doris Miller Veterans Administration Medical Center.

2018 MENTORS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Mikeal Parsons
Arts and Humanities
Department of Religion
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Melanie Sekeres
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Department of Psychology & Neuroscience
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Karen Melton
Professional Fields
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences
2018 SCHOLARS WEEK OUTSTANDING PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY

Fernando Centeno
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sara Alexander
Bolivarian Revolution in Retreat: Understanding the Venezuelan Crisis, its Human Toll and its Outlook

Lexi Gage
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carol Macaulay
The BSB Garden- Home to more than just flowers

Sarah Jones and Sam Houghton
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carol Macaulay
Slums Beneath the SLC

Mark Cole Sutton
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carol Macaulay
Homestead Heritage: A Subculture Engaging to Disengage

ART

Emily Starr
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sean DeLouche
Daumier and Les Gens des Justice

ECONOMICS

Samuel Kang
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Cunningham
Identifying Differential Effects of Mass Incarceration on Substance Addiction

Rebecca Peirce
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason A. Aimone
Charitable Giving and Its Effects on Altruistic Behavior

GEOSCIENCES

Michaela Donahoo
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dan Peppe
Applying Paleobotanical Paleoclimate Proxies: A Case Study of Tropical African Floras
2018 SCHOLARS WEEK OUTSTANDING PLATFORM PRESENTATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE

John Ryan Isaacson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ivy Hamerly
Popular or not so Popular? Offensive Structural Realist and Institutionalist Predictions of German Neighbors in Regards to German Power

Andrew Patterson
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ivy Hamerly
Debunking the Twitter Revolution: A Rationalist Approach to the Arab Spring

RELIGION

C. Carter Barnett (Arabic and Middle East Studies)
Faculty Mentors: Dr. David Whitford and Dr. Abjar Bahkou
Paul, Peter, and the Sword: Matta El Meskeen on Submission and Romans 13

Ethan Bryant
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mikeal Parsons
Leviathan: A Novel Use of an Ancient Figure

Lily Pellegrini
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mikeal Parsons
I Am Lilith, Hear Me Roar

Christian Sessa
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mikeal Parsons
Dancing David
ANTHROPOLOGY

1st Place
Alexandria Assenheimer, Lauren Sides, and Maddi Tipping
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katie Binetti
Interobserver Reliability of Ectocranial Suture Obliteration Assessment in Determining Age of Earth

2nd Place (tie)
Mai Dramiga, Samantha Herkner, Kelli Jones, and Tammy Wake
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katie Binetti
Observations of the Effects of Water Salinity on Bone

2nd Place (tie)
Lilla Dorvee, Molly Ginn, Nicholas Mercuro, and Destiny Saxiones
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katie Binetti
Does knowledge of mtDNA bias potential jurors?

BIOLOGY

CATEGORY 1
INTRODUCTORY INQUIRY-BASED LABS

1st Place
Lathan Lucas, Ashley Young, Braden Hansen, Sarah Antrich, Alaina Baird, Victoria Dinh, Emily Dunn, Bethany Fernandes, Emma Fraley, Alia Ghanem, Michael Gilbert, Terra Morris, Benjamin North, Mary Overcash, Katherine Pavleszek, Lily Pellegrini, Long Pham, Leo Rule, Emily Schultz, Jensen Smith, Brandon Thong, Haley Turner, Gabriella Walker, Zachary Whitaker, Rachel Wilsey, and Reid Yanney
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tamarah Adair
Elesar: A founding member of the new Arthrobacter phage cluster FF

2nd Place
Amayah Brown, Margaret Klausmeyer and Sabrina Martinez
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Marty Harvill
The Effects of Attire on Laparoscopic Performance
2018 SCHOLARS WEEK OUTSTANDING POSTER PRESENTATIONS

BIOLOGY

CATEGORY 2
UPPER LEVEL CELL AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY INQUIRY-BASED LABS

1st Place
Alyssa Alaniz, Neha Hussain, Emily Feese, Annie Luksch, Victoria Mancillas, and Michael Valencia
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Myeongwoo Lee
The Influence of Imipramine on the Egg-Laying Behavior of Caenorhabditis elegans

2nd Place
Vanessa Phan, Owen O’Neill, Caitlinn Kolibaba, Tim Noll, and Jeff Renner
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Myeongwoo Lee
The Effects of Alcohol on The Locomotion of C. elegans

CATEGORY 3
INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PROJECT

1st Place
Hugh Mair
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tamarah Adair
Tape Measure Protein Multiplex PCR Successfully Classifies Arthrobacteriophages

CATEGORY 4
RESEARCH TEAM PROJECT

1st Place
Clayton Smith and Beatriz Castillo Rodriguez
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joseph Taube
CTR1 expression is not essential for maintaining epithelial or reverting mesenchymal phenotypes in MCF7 and MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell lines

2nd Place
Emily Lin, Aadil Sheikh
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Joe Taube and Dr. Leigh Greathouse
Cancer, Bacteria, and Inflammation: Outer Membrane Vesicles from Enterotoxigenic Bacteroides fragilis and Non-enterotoxigenic Bacteroides fragilis Contain RNA Species that Activate Pattern-Recognition Receptors on Human Cells
2018 SCHOLARS WEEK OUTSTANDING POSTER PRESENTATIONS

CHEMISTRY

1st Place
Isaac Lill, Samuel O. Odutola, Erica N. Parker, and Brett D. Harper
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Mary Lynn Trawick, Dr. Touradj Solouki, Dr. Kevin G. Pinney
Cruzain Inhibition by Thiosemicarbazone Compounds for Potential Therapeutic Use Against Chagas Disease

2nd Place
Minwoo Kim, Javier Hernandez, Cody Yao, Aaron Murillo-Ruiz and Tim Philip
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Romo
Baylor Minipharma

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Liana DeNino, Grace Hutchinson, Julia Frandesen-DeLoach, Jonah Salazar, and Clark Coneby
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Trey Brown
Preliminary Results of Residential Curbside Residual Lead in West Dallas, TX

Hannah Dye and Jasmine Stovall
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Susan Bratton
Microplastic Pollution in an Urban Runoff-Fed Stream in Texas, USA. A Comparison Between Habitat Types Above Treated Wastewater Effluents

Madison Stewart and Marina R. Mulenos
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christie Sayes
Data Informatics and Proteomics: Multi-Variant Visualization of the Gold Nanoparticle Protein Corona

Andreanna Burman
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christie M. Sayes
Physicochemical Features of the Gold Nanoparticle-Protein Corona: Using Analytical Methods to Detect and Identify Proteins

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND POLICY

Saskia Henery
Faculty Mentor: Dr. George Cobb
An Analysis into The Effects of Conservation Efforts of the Demerara Forest in South America
GEOSCIENCES

Rachel Holsteen Bruyere
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kenny Befus
Were the Volatile Contents of Yellowstone Caldera’s Lava Creek Tuff the Same?

Bradley Rains
Faculty Mentors: Wayne Hamilton, MS, Bruce Byars, MS
An Economic Spatial Optimization Analysis of Central Texas Lignite Coal Mining

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Kilee Burke and Bisma Ikram
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rizalia Klausmeyer
Gout Flare Association with Acute Myocardial Infarction

Matthew Parham
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Paul Fillmore
MrAnats: Magnetic Resonance-based Adaptive NeuroAnatomy Teaching Software

Andres Umana and Larissa Garcia
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sara Perry
It Takes Two to Tango: Gender Dyad Composition in Negotiation

Harrison Dai
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joshua Patrick
Temperature, Single Men, and Crime?

PHYSICS

Garrett Williams and Susan Pedigo
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Zhenrong Zhang
The Effects of Cadmium on Calcium Binding and Dimerization of N-Cadherin.

Taylor Robinett and Courtney Turner
Faculty Mentor: Dr. William B. Cade III
Energy Transfer During Magnetic Storms
PSYCHOLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE

1st Place
Habib Abla
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sara Dolan, Dr. Richard Sanker, Dr. Evan Gordon and Dr. Steven Nelson
Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury on Cortical Myelin Content

2nd Place
Mary High, Taylor Luster, Daniel Zeter, Chenlu Gao, and Stacy Nguyen
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Scullin
Does Mozart Make Memories? An Experimental Test of Targeted Memory Reactivation During Slow Wave Sleep

3rd Place
Christian Hernandez-Zegada, Samantha Hodges, Suzanne Nolan, Andy Holley, Matt Binder, Lindsay Tomac, Siena Condon, Christian Potter, and James Okoh
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joaquin Lugo
The impact of early life seizures on the development of autistic-like behavior across two genetic mouse strains: 129SvEvTac and C57BL/6 mice

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Tamara Adair  
Eileen Bentsen  
Dr. Susan Bratton  
Dr. Laurie Burney  
Dr. Nathan Elkins  
Dr. Patrick Farmer  
Dr. Jonathan Hu  
Dr. Dennis Johnston  
Dr. Paul Larson  

Jianna Lin  
Dr. Robert Miner  
Dr. Brian Raines  
Dr. Kelly Rossler  
Dr. Rich Sanker  
Courtney Smith  
Jasmine Stovall  
Dr. Dianna Vitanza
Dr. Truell Hyde

and

the Office of the Vice Provost for Research

wish to express appreciation to

Dr. Susan Bratton

for

her seven years of service as

Director of URSA

Thank you!