

# Student Research Symposium Awardees 2012-2013

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The following students received an outstanding presentation award at the 2012 Cal State L.A. Student Symposium on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities. Congratulations to all!

## **Oral Presentations**

### **Group 1 – Behavioral and Social Sciences**

**Wendy Dorenbush**

M.A. Anthropology

*Lost Settlements: Rediscovering the Maya Settlement and Landscape of Cahal Pech, Belize*

Faculty Mentor: James Brady

### **Group 2 – Behavioral and Social Sciences**

**Tony Ye**

M.A. Psychology

*Cognitive Inflexibility After Adolescent Methamphetamine Exposure*

Faculty Mentor: Alicia Izquierdo

### **Group 3 - Engineering and Computer Science**

**Garth Herman**

M.S. Electrical Engineering

*Hybrid Routing Algorithms for Navigation Control of a Semi-Autonomous Robotic Platform*

Faculty Mentors: Charles Liu and Helen Boussalis

### **Group 4 - Engineering and Computer Science**

**Azizkhan Pathan**

**Joseph David Wells**

**Benjamin Liu**

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

*Experimental Sounding Supersonic Rocket Design* Faculty Mentor: Darrell Guillaume

**Usama Tohid**

M.S. Mechanical Engineering

*Parametric Analysis of a Direct Methanol Fuel Cell in Single-phase and two-phase Regimes*  
Faculty Mentor: Arturo Pacheco-Vega

**Group 5 - Biological Sciences**

**Kathy Trang**

B.A. Psychology and B.S. Biology

*Alternative Splicing: Sexual Differentiation at the Transcriptome*

Faculty Mentor: Houg-Wei Tsai

**Andrea Herrera**

M.S. Biology

*Determining the mechanism of inhibition of mitochondrial Ca<sup>2+</sup> overload by the cocoa flavanol (-)-epicatechin as a means of conferring cardioprotection during ischemiareperfusion*

Faculty Mentor: Katrina Yamazaki

**Group 6 – Humanities and Letters**

**Krystal Messer**

M.A. History

*Taken for a Ride: How General Motors Drove the Pacific Electric Railway Out of Business*

Faculty Mentor: Choi Chatterjee

**Robert Brown**

M.A. Political Science

*The Path to Insurgency: A Comparative Analysis of Afghanistan, Colombia, and Angola*

Faculty Mentor: Emily Acevedo

**Group 7 – Biological and Chemical Sciences**

**Michael Martinez**

B.S. Chemistry

*Identification of Benzo[a]pyrene Diones as Net Sensitizers of Singlet Oxygen*

Faculty Mentors: Krishna Foster and Matias Selke

**Poster Presentations**

**Behavioral and Social Sciences**

**Ana Fonseca**

**Phoebe Lee**

**Sibella Salazar**

**Liana Kostaudyan**

M.A. Psychology

*Maintenance of Latino Culture among Latino Young Adults and Parents*

Faculty Mentor: Jessica Dennis

**Guadalupe Gutierrez**, B.A. Psychology

**Sandy Wang**, M.A. Psychology

*Parenting Behavior and School-Aged Bullying Experience: Association with Self-Esteem in Young Adults*

Faculty Mentors: Munyi Shea and Robert Kennison

**Biological and Agricultural Sciences**

**Oswaldo Escobar**

B.S. Microbiology *Improvement of Polarization of Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells Grown at Air-Liquid Interface with Retinoic Acid* Faculty Mentor: Edith Porter

**Natalie Rodriguez**

M.S. Biology

*Epistatic Analysis of Candida albicans Yck2 $\Delta$ / $\Delta$  Strain: Implications of gene expression profile on mutant morphology and stress response*

Faculty Mentor: Hyunsook Park

**Jazma Tapia**

B.S. Microbiology

*The Role of Antimicrobial Lipids: Potential Novel Innate Immune Factors Preventing Intrauterine Infections*

Faculty Mentor: Edith Porter

**Engineering and Computer Science**

**Anahis Rincon**

B.S. Biochemistry

*Optimization of Centrifugal Microfluidic Disc Design for Separations via Monolithic Silica discs*

Faculty Mentor: Frank Gomez

**Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Sciences**

**Eileen Gonzalez**

B.S. Microbiology

*Mitochondrial Dynamics in the Type 2 Diabetic Heart*

Faculty Mentor: Katrina Yamazaki

**Physical and Mathematical Sciences**

**Mary Arrastia**

B.S. Chemistry and Math

*Design and Development of a Novel Microfluidic Direct Methanol Fuel Cell*

Faculty Mentor: Frank Gomez

**Maria Ortega**

M.S. Chemistry with Biochemistry option

*Fabrication and solvent studies of thiolene optical adhesive 81 microfluidic chips and their use in chemical separations and reactions*

Faculty Mentor: Frank Gomez