

*Welcome*

TO THE  
INAUGURAL

*Leaf  
Awards*

EXCELLENCE IN  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH,  
CREATIVITY, & SCHOLARSHIP

*March 30, 2023*



UNIVERSITY of  
**LOUISIANA**  
L A F A Y E T T E

**Student Center for  
Research, Creativity  
and Scholarship**

**ADVANCE**  
STUDENT RESEARCH  
EXPERIENCE

The Quality Enhancement Program of UL Lafayette

# *The Leaf Awards*

The Leaf Award celebrates students who have achieved excellence while completing a Student Research Experience (SRE) or disseminating information about a SRE they have worked on. The Advance Student Research Experience (ASRE) Program at UL Lafayette defines a SRE as a sustained effort by a student to apply subject knowledge, skills, and abilities to a project that is valued by the discipline. The Student Center for Research, Creativity, and Scholarship (SCRCS) houses the ASRE program, which supports the increase of undergraduate students' productivity and success through engagement in research, innovative projects, and creative endeavors.

Folklore at UL Lafayette begins at new student convocation when students are given an acorn lapel pin for good luck as they begin their academic endeavors and University engagement. There is speculation that good luck comes from rubbing the acorn in the hand of the Edwin Stephens statue, UL Lafayette's first president. In 1901 he planted the first of the famous century oaks on our campus. While attending UL Lafayette, students can participate in many co-curricular activities including scientific research, engineering competitions, honors thesis, artistic or scholarly presentations, or performances. Excellence in student engagement is recognized in many ways across campus. Students or student organizations can be awarded through Ragin Recognition; they are awarded an Oakie. The mighty oak is a symbol of elegant strength that endures over time and provides shade and rest for those who sit under it. Furthermore, it is the leaves that provide the shade. It is the leaves that feed the tree allowing it to grow. It is hundreds of leaves that make the might oak, mighty, like the hundreds of students who make UL Lafayette the elegant, and strong R1 institution that it is.

The academic endeavors of the students who receive the Leaf Award challenge and inspire the faculty and illuminate the possibilities for the future to the staff and administration. They grow and develop into amazing professionals, and they participate in the continuous building of a strong, elegant institution, that is UL Lafayette.



OPENING REMARKS  
*President Joseph Savoie*

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS  
*Dr. Sherry Krayesky-Self & Todd Henry*

PRESENTATION OF PROVOST AWARDS  
*Dr. Jaimie Hebert*

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

*Jakob Barre*  
*Samuel Baye*  
*Jinaki Boudreaux*  
*Blake Miller*  
*Evan Smith*  
*Bailey Stock*

SPECIAL THANKS TO  
*SCRCS Staff*

*Sherry Krayesky-Self*  
*Todd Henry*  
*Jessie White*  
*Nirmal Gope*  
*Ipek Kaya*  
*Sarika Manglpally*  
*Micaiah Alfred*  
*Jacques Laughlin*



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Steering Committee

Kimberly Billeaudeau

Lori Crain

Deedra Harrington

Courtney Jefferies

Kendall Laster

Robert McKinney

Penny Powell

Yasmeen Qudsi

Kelly Robinson

Robin Schneider-Broussard

Colleen Wolverson

Selection Committee

Deedra Harrington

Robin Schneider-Broussard

Lise Anne Slatten


Tricia Templet

Colleen Wolverson

Thomas Cline & Students for the  
design of the Leaf Award plaque.

Faculty Mentors

Advance Ambassadors



## *Award in Business*

This category awards research methods in Business, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Hospitality Management, Insurance and Risk Management, Management, Management Information Systems, Marketing, Professional Land and Resource Management.


### **Victoria Marks**

B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration; Department of Economics and Finance

Nominated and mentored by Denis Boudreaux

Victoria investigated the proposed outcomes of recently passed legislation by Louisiana lawmakers dealing with Tort Reform. The student's thorough literature review led to the initiation of legislation. Victoria identified and theoretically tested the hypotheses that the revised statutes implied objectives would: 1. Reduce Automobile Insurance, 2. Reduce the Amount paid in Personal Injury Lawsuits, 3. Reduce the Number of Personal Injury Lawsuits, 4. Base Payment of Past Medical Bills on the Amount Billed.

Victoria is the president of the honor society, Financial Management Association, and a member of Phi Kappa Phi.





## *Awards in Creative Work and Media Production*

This category awards research which culminates in a Creative or Multimedia Work in areas such as Architecture & Design, Music, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Broadcasting, or Moving Image Arts.

### **Emily LeBlanc**

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated by Joshua Caffery; mentored by John Sharp

Emily is working on archiving a collection of Greg Guirard's (1937-2017) work, author, naturalist, sinker cypress logger, commercial crawfish fisherman, and professional photographer. The Guirard Collection, the largest and most in-depth collection of documentary photography shot in the Atchafalaya River Basin. The collection is of wide interest to the artistic community, researchers, and the public. Since 2017, the Center for Louisiana Studies has received numerous inquiries about accessing the collection, now the collection is accessible. Emily is also a Student Philanthropy Ambassador with the UL Lafayette Office of Development.

### **Avery Miller**

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated by Adam Feld; mentored by Thomas Cline


Avery designed the Leaf Award plaque. Avery's preliminary design was chosen during a critique of all designs submitted. The competition Avery won, and the work that designed the Leaf Award represents the intersection of traditional research and knowledge coupled with the creative expression of the arts. This act of design produced an artifact that is imbued with symbolism and meaning for the students of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

### **Virginia Tyler**

College of the Arts; Department of Visual Arts

Nominated and mentored by Daniel DiCaprio

Virginia created a jewelry exhibition of wearable and sculptural objects that deal with heritage, memory, and the reconstruction of lost relationships. The student uses techniques that express a connection to this region and community, like wax casting, enameling, and stone setting. The work brings a perspective of the culture of South Louisiana to a larger community of artists.





## *Awards in Education*

This category awards research methods in Art or Music Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle School Education, Secondary Education, Curriculum design, Teaching, and Kinesiology.

### **Monica Guidry**

College of Education & Human Development; Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction

Nominated and mentored by Christine Briggs


Monica completed an action research project within her year-long residency in a school setting. The project is entitled, “Changes in Dysgraphia Handwriting through Direct Modeling and Intervention Tools.”

### **Kirstin Wilson**

College of Education & Human Development; Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership

Nominated and mentored by Ronald Dore’

Kirstin studied adverse childhood experiences and the impact of those experiences on children. The student’s work focused on abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. The results of the work determined that children who have multiple adverse experiences are at a high risk of developing mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression.





## *Awards in Engineering & Technology*

This category awards research methods in Engineering, Technology. Disciplines represented include Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering.

### **April Bourlet**

College of Engineering; Department of Chemical Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by Ling Fei

April won a Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) grant from the Louisiana Board of Regent (\$5,000/year) to complete work on superhydrophobic surface coating. The study explores the effect of different morphological carbon templates on coating performance. The project is entitled, "Varying morphological carbon templates on the coating performance of superhydrophobic surface coating." April has completed two different engineering internships and serves as an Advance Student Ambassador for Chemical Engineering.

### **Grayson Lanza**

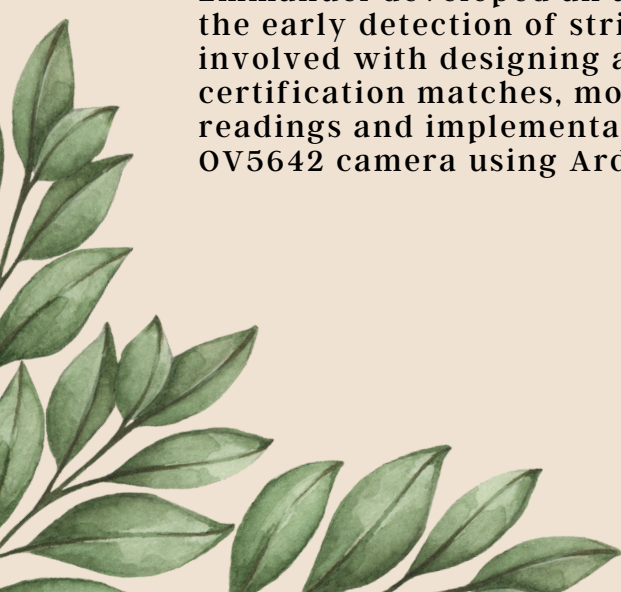
College of Engineering; Department of Chemical Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by William Chirdon

Grayson is studying the application of a protein-based bioadhesive formulated from brewery trub (waste). The bio-based adhesive utilizes waste material, therefore, aiding in the task of limiting global pollution while creating a product able to substitute for petroleum-based adhesives. Utilizing protein-rich alternatives to produce adhesives has the potential to reduce net cost and environmental impact.

### **Emmanuel Nwogu-Agbakwuribe**

College of Engineering; Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by Farzad Ferdowsi

Emmanuel developed an automated machine learning-based system for the early detection of stringing in 3D printing. The student has also been involved with designing a C++ function that verifies private key and certification matches, monitoring racecar redlining by analyzing rpm readings and implementation of image capturing with the ArduCAM OV5642 camera using Arduino and C++ programming.







## *Awards in Health*

This category awards research methods in health sciences. Disciplines represented include Nursing, Health Information Management, Exercise Science, Health Services Administration, and Pre-Dental Hygiene.

### **Julian Cecil**

College of Nursing and Health Sciences; LHC Group Myers School of Nursing

Nominated by Deedra Harrington; mentored by Christy McDonald Lenahan


Julian's research focuses on the effect of music on overall health and psychological well-being in older adults. Further, implementing music therapy/programs in long-term care facilities has resulted in improved depression symptoms, improved well-being, and decreased use of mood stabilizing medications. Julian, who is well versed in Cajun and Zydeco, explored the effect of Zydeco music on residents of Woodbriar Southern Style Assisted Living & Memory Care located in Maurice, Louisiana.


### **Bailey Nguyen**

College of Education & Human Development; School of Kinesiology

Nominated by Huong Nguyen & Derek Scott; mentored by Shuichi Sato

Bailey's research focuses on determining the molecular target to treat muscle wasting due to cancer. The composition of a patient's musculature is a determinant of their overall health. Bailey is a Lead Advance Student Ambassador for the College of Education and Human Development.





## *Awards in Humanities*

This category awards research methods in the Humanities (in both traditional and digital forms). Disciplines represented include such fields as Organizational Communication, Public Relations, English, History, and Modern Languages.

### **Gabrielle Hoffpauir-Rosatto**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of English

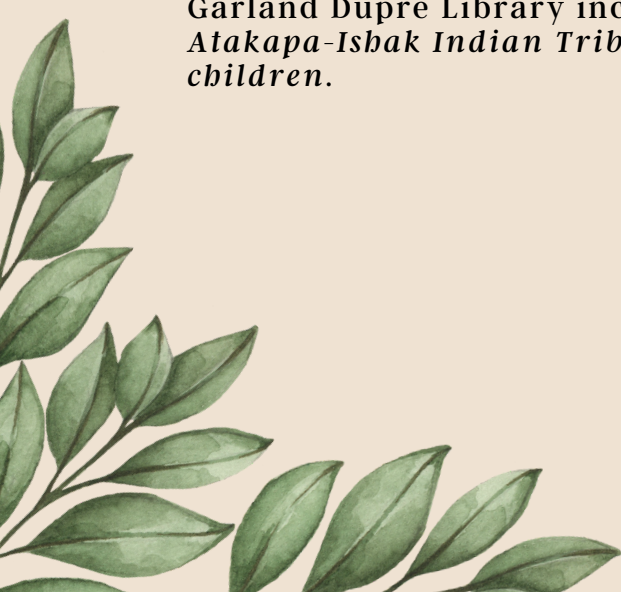
Nominated by Marissa Petrou; mentored by Marissa Petrou & Zachary Stein  
Gabrielle worked with the American Library Association National Endowment for the Humanities, an American Rescue Plan funded research project, "Queering the Collection: Expanding & Archiving LGBTQ+ History in Southwest Louisiana." Academically, Gabrielle's contributions to this project support the University's program in Public History and minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Gabrielle's contributions also support the LGBTQ+ community of the University and Louisiana more broadly by supporting more research about LGBTQ+ history in this region.

### **Alaina Markey**

College of Education & Human Development; Department of Educational Curriculum and Instruction

Nominated and mentored by Roxanne Bourque

Alaina produced a digital collection in UL Lafayette's Institutional Repository that archives data needed to document the history of education practices and instructional materials. Also, Alaina produced a Curriculum Guide to be submitted as an artifact for digital publication for teachers, families, young children, and the community at Moncus Park, Lafayette, LA, and served as a "Secret Storyteller" at Bayou to Beltway. The student's material added to the Institutional Repository, Special Collections, Edith Garland Dupre Library include, *The Cooshmah is Coming and Exploring the Atakapa-Ishak Indian Tribe and the Land of Moncus Park with Young children*.





## *Awards in Sciences*

This category awards research methods in science. Disciplines represented include such fields as Biology, Microbiology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Environmental Science, Geology, Informatics, Math, or Physics.

### **Ethan Horn**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology  
Nominated and mentored by Kelly Robinson

Ethan's research focuses on contrasting the effectiveness of traditional fish and artificial dry baits to attract Red swamp crawfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) at winter water temperatures. Crawfish and crawfish-based dishes are prized cultural touchstones in Louisiana. The crawfish industry contributes more than \$300 million to the state's economy and directly supports 2,300 jobs annually. Ethan's research inspired a newly-funded grant to Drs. Robinson and Kane by Louisiana Sea Grant.

### **Bailey Meche**

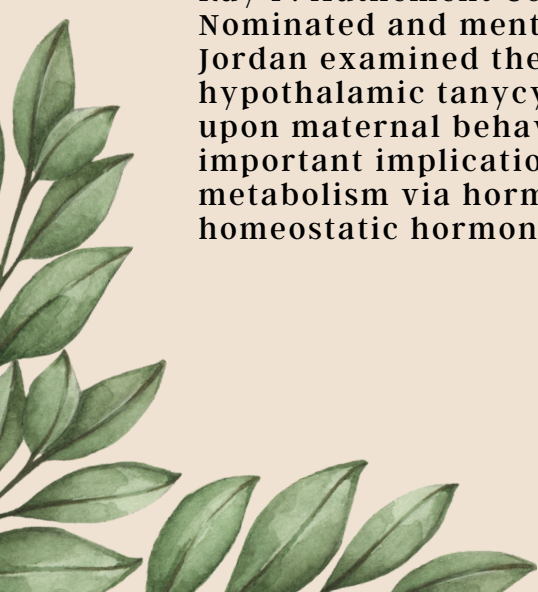
Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Mathematics  
Nominated by Bruce Wade; mentored by Kevin Zito

Bailey established a mathematical technique for solving systems of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) using semigroup and Laplace transform techniques. Completed from the perspective of an undergraduate student. A benefit of the work is the ease of computation and smooth integration with advanced ideas, thus unifying the treatment and making advanced ideas accessible. The accessibility will improve teaching at the upper undergraduate level. Bailey also completed a National Science Foundation REU for Deep Learning program that Developed a unified deep learning model titled DiseaseNet: identifying disease signatures. Bailey is the Advance Student Ambassador for Mathematics.

### **Jordan Richard**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology  
Nominated and mentored by Karen Smith

Jordan examined the role of a high fat diet and Fgfr1 receptor loss on hypothalamic tanycytes and helped examine the effects of loss of Fgfr1 upon maternal behaviors in mice lacking the Fgfr1 gene. The work has important implication for our understanding for the brain's role in metabolism via hormonal signaling in the hypothalamus, the center of homeostatic hormonal regulation.





## *Awards in Social Sciences*

This category awards research methods in the Social Sciences. Disciplines represented include such fields as Anthropology, Human Development and Family Science, Communicative Disorders, Criminal Justice, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology.

### **Vivian Barrilleaux**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Communication

Nominated and mentored by Amal Bakry


Vivian proposed a campaign to recruit new incoming students to ULL Department of Communication. A Creative Strategy was researched and implemented, and a storyboard for a 60 second television spot was produced.

### **Aidan Guidry**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Psychology

Nominated and mentored by Hung-Chu Lin

Aidan worked on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on college students' loneliness and suicidality. Aidan works as a graphic designer for UL Lafayette's University Program Council. Aidan's poster was chosen to advertise the SOWELA Tech. Community College Art Show, where the student won best in category for sales promotion & online digital publication.





## *Awards for Community Impact*

This category awards students who are completing original work that benefits Louisiana, The University of Louisiana at Lafayette, or the Local community surrounding UL Lafayette.

### **Lydia Desormeaux**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Anthropology

Nominated and mentored by Kathe Managan


Lydia engaged in ethnographic research to learn about the techniques of creating bousillage in Louisiana. Bousillage is a blend of French and Native American building traditions. The word bousillage means *walls made of mud*. Lydia is creating an activity for children on bousillage that will be presented at the Children's Museum of Acadiana, where she works.

### **Forest Greene**

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated and mentored by Kari Smith

Forest completed and created the University's Office of Diversity Gender-Neutral Restroom and Lactation Space Survey and Map. Forest is a member of the National Organization of Minority Architecture and is a member of the Office for Campus Diversity's, Campus Resources for Belonging Project.





## *Awards in Diversity and Social Justice*

This category awards students who utilize any discipline such as the humanities or scientific methodologies, involve creative works or literature reviews, but should relate in some way to the overall theme of Diversity and Social Justice.

### **Monica Bourque**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Criminal Justice

Nominated and mentored by Meng-Ru Shih

Monica discovered a relationship between peer influence and gang involvement among racial groups. Monica's work investigated the relationship between race, peer influence, and gang activities among a youth sample. Based on Monica's study, increasing pro-social peer relationships might reduce the likelihood of gang involvement, especially in minority youth. This policy implication is valuable in the field.

### **Gabrielle Hoffpauir-Rosatto**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of English

Nominated by Marissa Petrou; mentored by Marissa Petrou & Zachary Stein

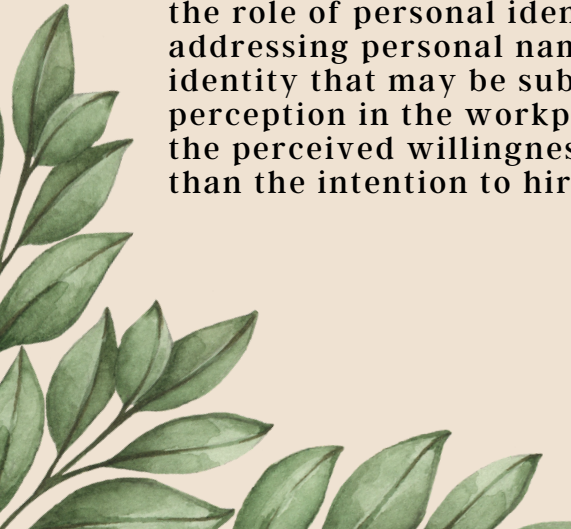
Gabrielle worked with the American Library Association National Endowment for the Humanities, an American Rescue Plan funded research project, "Queering the Collection: Expanding & Archiving LGBTQ+ History in Southwest Louisiana." Academically, Gabrielle's contributions to this project support the University's program in Public History and minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Gabrielle's contributions also support the LGBTQ+ community of the University and Louisiana more broadly by supporting more research about LGBTQ+ history in this region.


### **Cydnei Meredith**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Psychology

Nominated by Mathilda Johnny; mentored by Christie Charles

Cydnei's study, "What's in a Name? Perceptions of First Names in the Workplace," addresses employment discrimination through examining a seemingly neutral form of identification, first names. It highlights layers of biases that is not known, or implicit bias. This study proposes to examine the role of personal identity in employment discrimination. Specifically, addressing personal names that may allude to a particular racial or gender identity that may be subjected to discrimination, and its implicit cognitive perception in the workplace environment. This study intends to focus on the perceived willingness to work with a person given that name rather than the intention to hire.





## *Awards for Exceptional Performance in Dissemination*

This category awards exceptional performance in dissemination of student research experiences (SREs), written or oral communications as well as performances and presentations where considered.

### **Braden Doucet**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Nicholas Kooyers


Braden investigates the genetic basis and physiological mechanisms of drought resistance in a model plant species. This student earned a co-authorship on a manuscript currently in review at the American Journal of Botany. Presented findings at a national conference, Invasion Genomics 2023.

### **Kaeryel Dowl**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by James Nelson

Kaeryel worked at the Plum Island Estuary Long Term Ecological Research (PIELTER) station to complete a survey for blue and green crabs across the Plum Island Estuary. Developed research methods and objectives for this project and presented findings at the Gulf Estuarine Research Society (GERS) Biennial Meeting. Kaeryel's presentation at the University of Chicago's Marine Biological Laboratory Undergraduate Research Symposium received a second place award.





## *The Evergreen Awards*

This category awards original work that will make a long-lasting impact to the field of study or discipline.

### **Haley Benoit**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; School of Geosciences

Nominated and mentored by Eric Ferre


Haley is working on the development of a new geothermometer. This groundbreaking spectroscopic method yields highly reproducible results that are low-cost & easy-to-deploy outside a lab. The oil industry will be receptive to this new method. The method employed by Haley is mimicking another paleotemperature method that was invented 100 years ago for conodonts, a type of trace fossil. It is rare an undergraduate student to lead such a cutting-edge research project. The results will be presented at the next Geological Society of America Meeting. Haley is an Advance Student Ambassador for Geosciences.

### **Jason Funderburgh**

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated by Kari Smith; mentored by Geoff Gjertson

Jason performed architectural materials and systems research, tested components and mock-ups, produced construction details and drawings, and built this small artist's retreat. As a built work, the project has the lasting impact of building brand recognition for the University and reflects the expertise of the Architecture and Design Program.







## *The Provost Awards*

This award is for work that is interdisciplinary or work that displays excellence across other award categories. This award also honors students who have completed exceptional research or creative/scholarly works despite challenging circumstances.

### **Elise Baranco**

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated and mentored by Kiwana McClung

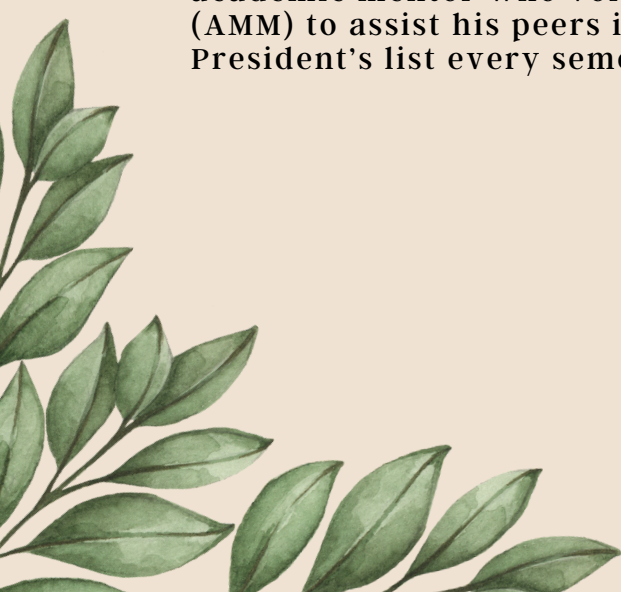
Elise led a seven-student design team whose research project created a Vision Book for Visionaries of the Creative Arts (VOCA), a Deaf and Hard of Hearing performing arts group in Washington, D.C. This book was created to help VOCA establish considerations for the design of a new performance facility for the group, using Deaf Space design principles. Elise worked beyond the requirements of the project, engaging other members of the project team in learning American Sign Language (ASL) so they could better communicate with the clients who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.

### **Carson Hebert**

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Ritwij Kulkarni

Carson investigated why diabetic individuals are more susceptible to urinary tract infections caused by *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. This project is of immense public health importance due to high incidence of urinary tract infections in diabetes and because *Klebsiella pneumoniae* urinary tract infections are often unresponsive to routine antibiotics. Carson is an academic mentor who volunteers his time in Academic Mentoring Matters (AMM) to assist his peers in biology and chemistry. Carson has made the President's list every semester while at UL Lafayette.





## *The Provost Awards continued*

### **Gabrielle Hoffpauir-Rosatto**

College of Liberal Arts; Department of English

Nominated by Marissa Petrou; mentored by Marissa Petrou & Zachary Stein  
Gabrielle worked with the American Library Association National Endowment for the Humanities, an American Rescue Plan funded research project, "Queering the Collection: Expanding & Archiving LGBTQ+ History in Southwest Louisiana." Academically, Gabrielle's contributions to this project support the University's program in Public History and minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Gabrielle's contributions also support the LGBTQ+ community of the University and Louisiana more broadly by supporting more research about LGBTQ+ history in this region. Gabrielle has made the President's list every semester while at UL Lafayette.

### **Mynmayh Khamvongsa**

College of Engineering; Department of Chemical Engineering

Nominated and mentored by William Chirdon

Mynmayh completed an Honor's thesis on mimicking the flow properties of blood with Sickle Cell Anemia using synthetic fluids. It has the potential to facilitate medical research on devices that utilize blood that has Sickle Cell Anemia. Mynmayh disseminated this work at the Honor's Symposium and recently at the AIChE regional conference hosted in Gainesville, FL. This student has performed multiple research works in multiple departments including research on using polylactic acid and hydroxyapatite (PLA/HA) 3D printed scaffolds to mimic mechanical properties in bones and Development of a 3D Bioprinter. Mynmayh has been on the President's list and is a "President's Top Scholar".

