

The Student Center for Research, Creativity, and Scholarship  
presents

*The University of Louisiana at Lafayette*

# Leaf Awards



Excellence in Undergraduate Research,  
Creativity, & Scholarship

*March 14, 2024*

**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 mighty oak, mighty, like the hundreds of students who make UL Lafayette the elegant, and strong R1 Research 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 Kravesky-Self & Todd Henry*

Presentation of Provost Awards  
*Dr. Jaimie Hebert*

Musical Performance by School of Music Students  
*Logan Turner*  
*Evan Smith*  
*Timothy James Smith, Jr.*

Special Thanks to SCRCS Staff  
*Sherry Kravesky-Self*  
*Todd Henry*  
*Jessie White*  
*Jessica Thibodeaux*  
*Mollie Helmick*  
*Katelynn Bengé*  
*Sarika Mangalpally*  
*Micaiah Alfred*  
*Jacques Laughlin*

Special Thanks to  
Selection Committee

*Christine Briggs*

*Ciara Crochet*

*Michael Eble*

*Farzad Ferdowsi*

*Clancy Ratliff*

*William Schmidt*

*Robin Schneider-Broussard*

*Tricia Templet*

*Thomas Cline & Students for the design and  
production of the Leaf Award plaques.*

*Faculty Mentors*

*Advance Ambassadors*

## *Awards in Humanities*

This category covers 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.

Savannah Blanco-Trumps  
College of Liberal Arts; Department of Communication  
Nominated and mentored by Lauren Auverset van Gerwen  
Project title: Tuning into Tomorrow: Unveiling Community Insights for KRVS

Carson Savoie  
College of Liberal Arts; Department of History  
Nominated and mentored by Marissa Petrou and Theodore Foster  
Project title: Map to Black Studies

## *Awards in Education*

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

Mya Landry  
College of Education & Human Development; Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Nominated and mentored by Roxanne M. Bourque  
Project title: Interactive Water Adventure: Working with the Water-Cycle

Marisa Hooker  
College of Education & Human Development; Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Nominated and mentored by Ronald J. Dore'  
Project title: Social Media Issues in Education Research

## *Awards in Social Sciences*

This category covers 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.

Emily DeGruise  
College of Liberal Arts; Department of Psychology  
Nominated by Andrea Eggenberger  
Mentored by Valanne L. MacGyvers  
Project title: Two Studies in Psychology: Corporal Punishment and Self-Diagnosis

Abbey Poirier  
College of Education & Human Development; Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
Nominated and mentored by Ronald J. Dore'  
Project title: School to Prison Pipeline

## *Awards in Business*

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

Chloe Hardin

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

Nominated by Sarah Skinner

Mentored by Denis Boudreaux

Project title: The Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Accounting and Finance

Sydnee Johnson

B.I. Moody III College of Business Administration; Louisiana Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Center

Nominated and mentored by Josh Bendickson

Project title: Leading and Managing Inclusive Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

## *Awards in Life Sciences*

This category covers research methods in life science. Disciplines represented include such fields as Biology, Microbiology, Environmental Science, Botany or Agricultural Science.

Moiz Fazal Ur Rehman

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Ritwaj Kulkarni

Project title: Understanding the Effects of Glycosuria on *Klebsiella pneumoniae* Physiology

Jessica Fiser

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Karen Smith

Project title: Loss of Fgfr1 Signaling in the Central Nervous System Results in Impaired Maternal Behavior Phenotypes

## *Awards in Physical Sciences*

This category covers research methods in physical science or related projects. Disciplines represented include such fields as Geology, Physics, and Chemistry. This category may also be appropriate for Math or Engineering.

Shelby Meche

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Wu Xu

Project title: Comparison of the Protein Structures of Mammalian Caspases

Ramudhi Kariyawasam

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Chemistry

Nominated and mentored by Febee Louka

## *Awards in Computer & Informational Sciences*

This category covers research including disciplines of Computer Science and Informatics. This category may also be appropriate for Health Information Management, or Engineering.

Summer Crawford

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; School of Computing and Informatics

Nominated and mentored by Nian-Feng Tzeng

Project title: Climate Change-aware Crop Yield Prediction via Multi-Modal Spatial-Temporal Vision Transformer

Jonas Schmidt

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Computer Science/Mathematics

Nominated by M. Hassan Najafi

Mentored by Sercan Aygün

Project title: Emerging Underwater Image Processing

## *Awards in Health*

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

Linh Tran

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

Nominated by Tricia Templet

Mentored by Hung-Chu Lin

Project title: Examining the Perceptions Among Undergraduate Nursing Students Using Virtual Reality in a Community Course: A Mixed-Methods Explanatory Study

Bailey Nguyen

College of Education & Human Development; School of Kinesiology

Nominated and mentored by Shuichi Sato

Project title: Altered P38 Activation in Female Cancer Mice

## *Awards in Engineering & Technology*

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

Olivia Taylor

College of Engineering; Department of Engineering Technology

Nominated and mentored by Sharon LaHood

Project title: A Seat at the Table: The Effects of PPE Fit and Availability on Women in the Workforce

Chloe Williamson

College of Engineering; Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Nominated and mentored by Farzad Ferdowsi

Project title: Design, Programming, and Testing of DC Converters for Power Sharing in Microgrids

Griffin Usie

College of Engineering; Department Chemical Engineering

Nominated and mentored by Ling Fei

Project title: Precision Microstructure Control of Polymer Films Through Electrospray Deposition

## *Award in Creative Work and Media Production*

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

Abigail Miller

College of the Arts; Department of Visual Arts

Nominated and mentored by Brian Kelly

Project title: Printmaking Research Through Artist/Student Collaborations and Publications at Marais Press

## *Awards in Performing Arts*

This category covers research which culminates original or extraordinary performances in Music, Theater, Dance, Performing Arts or Moving Image Arts.

Rafael Herenandez

College of Liberal Art; Department of Communication

Nominated and mentored by Masey Hammons

Project title: Puerto Rico's Bootstrap Paradox

Joel Iler

College of the Arts; School of Music and Performing Arts

Nominated and mentored by William F. Plummer

Project title: UL Lafayette Choirs Undergraduate Student Conductors Concert



## *Awards in Diversity and Social Justice*

Applicants in any of the other categories have the option of also submitting their project for consideration in the Diversity and Social Justice category. These submissions could utilize humanities or scientific methodologies, involve creative work or literature reviews, but should relate in some way to the overall theme of Diversity and Social Justice.

Trina Lewis

College of the Arts; School of Architecture and Design

Nominated and mentored by Liane Hancock

Project title: Building Bridges Portland; Synergy Hill

Haneen Muthana

College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Department of Health Sciences

Nominated and mentored by Tierney Beebe

Project title: Evaluating Interprofessional Education and IPE Readiness with Nursing and Health Information Management Students at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette

## *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 were considered.

Alexandra Chistoserdov

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Karen Smith

Project title: Effects of Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor signaling and dietary treatments on hypothalamic tanycyte development

Haleigh Courville

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Psychology

Nominated and mentored by Erika Caramillo-Hatch

Project title: Scopolamine has a dose dependent effect on memory in the zebrafish

Veronica Colmenarez

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Communication

Nominated and mentored by Lauren Auverset van Gerwen

Project title: Scrolling to Success: Public Universities in Louisiana's TikTok PR Playbook

## *Awards for Community Impact*

This award is given to students who are completing original work that benefits Louisiana, The University of Louisiana at Lafayette or the Local community surrounding UL Lafayette.

Jessica Smith  
College of Engineering; Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by Farzad Ferdowsi  
Project title: Smartening Microgrid Operation and Planning

Zachary Primeaux  
College of Engineering; Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by Farzad Ferdowsi  
Project title: Mobile Microgrid for Disaster Relief

Savion Siner  
College of Engineering; Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Nominated and mentored by Farzad Ferdowsi  
Project title: Enhanced Resilience in Battery Charging through Co-Simulation with Reinforcement Learning

## *Awards for International Impact*

This award is for excellence in work that impacts countries outside the United States. It is also given to work that increases collaboration between countries or people from varying counties.

Karius Joseph  
College of Engineering; Department of Chemical Engineering  
Nominated by Cameron Romero  
Mentored by Ling Fei  
Project title: FeS<sub>2</sub> deposited on 3D-printed carbon microlattices as free-standing electrodes for lithium-ion batteries

Jessica Fiser  
Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology  
Nominated and mentored by Karen Smith  
Project title: Loss of Fgfr1 Signaling in the Central Nervous System Results in Impaired Maternal Behavior Phenotypes

## *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.

Carson Savoie

College of Liberal Arts; Department of History

Nominated and mentored by Marissa Petrou and Theodore Foster

Project title: Map to Black Studies

Jessica Fiser

Ray P. Authement College of Sciences; Department of Biology

Nominated and mentored by Karen Smith

Project title: Loss of Fgfr1 Signaling in the Central Nervous System Results in Impaired Maternal Behavior Phenotypes

Karius Joseph

College of Engineering; Department of Chemical Engineering

Nominated by Cameron Romero

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Emily DeGruise

College of Liberal Arts; Department of Psychology

Nominated by Andrea Eggenberger

Mentored by Valanne L. MacGyvers

Project title: Two Studies in Psychology: Corporal Punishment and Self-Diagnosis