2018 URCA Conference Winners

(Click on a heading below to jump to a specific list of winners.)

Presentation Category Winners:

Arts & Humanities
Business
Computer Science, MIS, Cybersecurity, & Statistics
Education
Engineering, Transportation, & Energy
Health Sciences
Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics, & Water
Social Sciences

College Winners:

Capstone College of Nursing
College of Arts & Sciences-Fine Arts & Humanities
College of Arts & Sciences-Natural Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences-Social Sciences
College of Communication & Information Sciences
College of Education
College of Engineering
College of Human Environmental Sciences
Culverhouse College of Commerce
First Place:
Rhiannon Hein
Mentor: Daniel Riches (A&S - History)
*Nationalist Sentiment in the Era of German Unification*

Second Place:
Meghan Poljak
Mentor: Teri Henley (C&IS - Advertising and Public Relations)
*Public Relations Society of America Alabama Chapter: Developing an Ethical Logo*

Third Place:
Jennifer Fourroux, Kira Yancey
Mentor: Christopher Lynn (A&S – Anthropology)
*Caregivers' Perspectives on the Human-Nonhuman Primate Relationship*

Fourth Place:
Sommer Hallquist
Mentor: Rachel Stephens (A&S - Art and Art History)
*The Hallquist Trunk: A History of Norwegian Painted Chests and the Transfer of Norwegian Culture to America*

Fifth Place:
Emily Elia
Mentor: Ana Corbalan (A&S - Modern Languages and Classics)
*Trauma and Dictatorships: Postmemory in Spanish and Argentinian Cinema*
Presentation Category: Business

First Place:
Mike Finnegan, Connor Hollenbach
Mentor: Paan Jindapon (C&BA - Economics, Finance and Legal Studies), Matthew Hampton (C&BA - Economics, Finance and Legal Studies)
The Impact of Naloxone Accessibility on Opioid Overdose Rates

Second Place:
Jordyn Kent
Mentor: Chris Whaley (C&BA - Economics, Finance and Legal Studies)
Star Wars: Rent-Seeking for Morningstar Ratings

Presentation Category: Computer Science, MIS, Cybersecurity, & Statistics

First Place:
Caroline Babbin
Mentor: David Hale (C&BA - Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science), Joanne Hale (C&BA - Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science)
Evidence-Based Practices in System Development
First Place:
Kira Wence
Mentor: Nathan Culmer (Community Health Sciences), Catanya Stager (Community Health Sciences)
Evaluating Primary Care Medical Residents in Psychiatry Rotations: What’s Important

Second Place:
Justin Crofoot
Mentor: Philip Westbrook (Education - Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies), Elizabeth Wilson
(Education - Curriculum and Instruction)
No Child Left Behind Policy Critique

Third Place:
Erin Yepsen
Mentor: Stacy Hughey-Surman (Education - Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling), Elizabeth Wilson (Education - Curriculum and Instruction)
The Financial Accessibility of Children's Museums in the US
First Place (Tie):
**Sydney Morales**
*Relationship between mechanical properties and microstructures of high pressure die casting AA383 alloy*

First Place (Tie):
**Jared Tubbs**
Mentor: Andrew Dewar (A&S - New College), Todd Freeborn (Engineering - Electrical and Computer Engineering), Holland Hopson (A&S - New College)
Internal: Sonifying the Human Body

Second Place:
**Morgan Ross**
*Rapid Ultra-High Temperature Testing of TaC and HfC*

Third Place:
**Laurn Woodyard**
Mentor: Todd Freeborn (Engineering - Electrical and Computer Engineering), Memorie Gosa (A&S - Communicative Disorders)
*MATLAB software tool towards automated analysis of surface electromyography data to support clinical research of musculature activity during swallowing*
Presentation Category: Health Sciences

First Place:
Kayleigh Meighan
Mentor: Lesley Weaver (A&S - Anthropology)
Disparities in Obstetric Care Experience Across Demographic Groups in Alabama

Second Place:
Tomasz Gruchala
Mentor: Alan Blum (Community Health Sciences)
Digital Media Addiction: An Emerging Issue Among College Students

Third Place:
Alex Huechteman
Mentor: Alyssia Miller (A&S - Modern Languages and Classics)
Community Needs Assessment of an Underserved Nicaraguan Population

Fourth Place:
Lita Waggoner
Mentor: Lori Turner (HES - Health Science)
West Central Alabama AHEC: From High School to the Health Professions Pipeline

Fifth Place (Tie):
Sara Kazyak
Mentor: Amy Ellis (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management), Kristi Crowe-White (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management)
Effects of Isoflavone Consumption on Risk Factors of Cardiovascular Disease in Post-Menopausal Women

Fifth Place (Tie):
Victoria Lewis, Brittany Tretter
Mentor: Michael Fedewa (Education - Kinesiology)
DOMAIN-SPECIFIC CORRELATIONS BETWEEN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTENSITY AND CELL-PHONE ADDICTION IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

Sixth Place:
Garrett Barnes
Mentor: Seung Jung (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management), Yeon Shin (HES - Human Development and Family Studies), Alvin Niuh (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management)
Grocery Store Tour Increases Participants’ Intentions to Purchase Fruits and Vegetables
Presentation Category: Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics, & Water

First Place:
Joshua Goble
Mentor: Kevin Kocot (A&S - Biological Sciences)
*The Biodiversity of Deep-Sea Icelandic Aplacophoran Molluscs*

Second Place:
Joline Hartheimer
Mentor: Yonghyun (John) Kim (Engineering - Chemical and Biological Engineering), Shreyas Rao (Engineering - Chemical and Biological Engineering)
*Targeting Hyaluronan Interactions for Glioblastoma Stem Cell Therapy*

Third Place:
Donna Xia
Mentor: David Dixon (A&S - Chemistry), Monica Vasiliu (A&S - Chemistry)
*Actinide Aqueous Hydrolysis Reactions: Initial Steps in Actinide Aggregation*

Fourth Place:
Matthew Cooper
Mentor: Michael Steinberg (A&S - New College)
*Analyzing the Effect of Climate Change on Snow Leopard Habitat*

Fifth Place:
Taylor Perkins
Mentor: Carolyn Cassady (A&S - Chemistry)
*Influencing Charge State Distribution of Biological Peptides via Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry Using Chromium(III) Nitrate*
Presentation Category: Social Sciences

First Place:
Claire Manderfield
Mentor: Joan Barth (ISSR - Institute for Social Science Research)
*Gender Role Norms in High School Girls' Social Groups and STEM Interest*

Second Place:
Alexis Winborne
Mentor: Darrin Griffin (C&IS - Communication Studies), Sevgi Gurbuz (Engineering - Electrical and Computer Engineering), Chris Crawford (Engineering - Computer Science), Ali Gurbuz (Engineering - Electrical and Computer Engineering)
*A Deaf centered approach to technological needs assessments for communicative assisted devices*

Third Place:
McKenna McCracken
Mentor: Joan Barth (A&S - Psychology), Kelsey Chappetta (A&S - Psychology)
*Gender Differences In World of Warcraft*

Fourth Place:
John Denton
Mentor: Bronwen Lichtenstein (A&S - Criminal Justice)
*Accept or Decline?: Deciding Factors in a Voluntary HIV Testing Program for Probationers and Parolees*

Fifth Place:
Kylie Hopkins
Mentor: Bronwen Lichtenstein (A&S - Criminal Justice)
*Is Divorce Fair?: The Gender Dynamics of Property Disposition*

Sixth Place (Tie):
Elizabeth (Ashley) Stinson, Melissa Sharpe
Mentor: Tricia Witte (HES - Human Development and Family Studies)
*Examining Limitations in Substance Use Treatment and Recovery Outcomes in Rural vs Urban Communities Across the United States*

Sixth Place (Tie):
Melissa Sharpe
Mentor: Michael Fedewa (Education – Kinesiology), Rachel Sanders (Education – Kinesiology)
*Examining Predictors of Opioid Use in College Students*
First Place:
Cassidy Kelley, Ambley Chambers
Mentor: Memorie Gosa (A&S - Communicative Disorders), Olivia May (Nursing - Capstone College of Nursing)
*Defining Successful Feeding: An Evidence Based Systematic Review*

Second Place:
Amira Aquino
Mentor: Juan Lopez-Bautista (A&S - Biological Sciences), Gabriela Garcia-Soto (A&S - Biological Sciences)
*Acanthophora dendroides Harvey: a new record for the Atlantic Ocean*

Top Work in Progress Winner:
Brooke Bambis
Mentor: Ann Graves (Nursing - Capstone College of Nursing)
*A scoping literature review: Access to diabetes health services using Geographical Information Systems*
First Place:
Moon Yang
Mentor: John Estes (A&S - English)
Tracing Heath

Second Place:
Abigael Furman
Mentor: Dilin Liu (A&S - English)
Great, Awesome, Terrific, and Fantastic: Analyzing the Lexical Semantic Change of a Set of Near Synonyms using Corpora

Third Place:
Molly Buffington
Mentor: George McClure (A&S - History)
A Faith That Sings: Lutheran Liturgy as a Theological Tool in the Reformation
First Place:
Abigail Rankin
Mentor: Carla Atkinson (A&S - Biological Sciences), Brian van Ee (A&S - Biological Sciences)
*Nutrient Limitations and the Effects of Mussel Abundance on Primary Productivity in the Sipsey River*

Second Place (Tie):
Emma Neumann, Jack Houck
Mentor: Michael McKain (A&S - Biological Sciences)
*Evolutionary Relationships of Blueberries and Their Relatives*

Second Place (Tie):
Lillian Vogelsong, Abigail Sisti, Allison Diamond
Mentor: Michael Steinberg (A&S - Geography)
*Wrack Line Pollution on Belizean Barrier Islands*

Second Place (Tie):
Jacob Powell
Mentor: Preethi Nair (A&S - Physics and Astronomy)
*The Importance of Mergers in the Growth of Galaxies*

Top Work in Progress Winner (Tie):
Benjamin Jones
Mentor: Shan Zhao (A&S – Mathematics), Sheik Ullah (A&S – Mathematics)
*Improving Effectiveness of Time Splitting Methods for Electrostatic Analysis of Solvated Biomolecules*

Top Work in Progress Winner (Tie):
Grace Liu
Mentor: Ann Graves (Nursing – Capstone College of Nursing)
*Geographical analysis of diabetes education services in Alabama*

Top Work in Progress Winner (Tie):
Neil Shimer
Mentor: Timothy Snowden (A&S - Chemistry), Kyle Black (A&S - Chemistry)
*Exploration of Improved Preparations of Stereodefined Imidoyl Halides*
*Evolutionary Relationships of Blueberries and Their Relatives*
College of Arts & Sciences-Social Sciences

First Place:
Nicholas Boehm
Mentor: Will Hart (A&S - Psychology), Gregory Tortoriello (A&S - Psychology)
Affective Reactions to Online Social Comparison in Vulnerable and Grandiose Narcissists

Second Place:
Grace Parente
Mentor: Jason Scofield (HES - Human Development and Family Studies), Catanya Stager (Education - Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling)
Adults’ Judgments of Contrasting Words

Top Work in Progress Winner (Tie):
Angelina Jones
Mentor: Fran Conners (A&S - Psychology)
Cognitive Decline in Down Syndrome Adolescents and Adults

Top Work in Progress Winner (Tie):
Lauren McGuire
Mentor: Ian McDonough (A&S - Psychology)
Encoding Activity in Sedentary versus Physically Active Jobs using fMRI

College of Communication & Information Sciences

First Place:
Jesse Tollison
Mentor: Jeremy Butler (C&IS - Telecommunication and Film)
Why Vine Died: A Deconstruction of Vine as an Artistic Social Media

Second Place:
Madeline Hirschfield
Mentor: Carol Mills (C&IS - Communication Studies)
Political Discussions Within the Family: Examining Difficult Family Conversations

Top Work in Progress Winner:
Mackenzie Pike
Mentor: Darrin Griffin (C&IS - Communication Studies)
Examining Power Through Nonverbal Communication in Professor's Online Profile Photos
**College of Education**

**First Place:**  
**Ross D’Entremont**  
Mentor: Brenda Mendiola (Education - Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies), Elizabeth Wilson (Education - Curriculum and Instruction), Mary Givens (Education - Educational Leadership, Policy and Technology Studies)  
*Effects of the Alabama Accountability Act on Rural versus Urban Private Schools*

**Second Place:**  
**Rachel Remmes**  
Mentor: Firat Soylu (Education - Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology and Counseling)  
*Structural Brain Features Associated with Autism in Children: a VBM Study*

**Top Work in Progress Winner:**  
**Jessica Bentley**  
Mentor: Michael Fedewa (Education - Kinesiology)  
*The Effect of Celiac Disease on Bone Health in Children and Adolescents: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis*

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**College of Engineering**

**First Place:**  
**Morgan Ross**  
*Rapid Ultra-High Temperature Testing of TaC and HfC*

**Second Place:**  
**Dennis Parnell Jr.**  
Mentor: Joshua Bittle (Engineering – Mechanical Engineering)  
*Demonstrating a direct-injection constant-volume combustion chamber as a validation tool for chemical kinetic modeling of liquid fuels*

**Top Work in Progress Winner:**  
**Kyle Leonard**  
Mentor: Chris Brazel (Engineering - Chemical and Biological Engineering)  
*Characterizing the Toxicity of Ionic Liquids to Mammalian Systems*
College of Human Environmental Sciences

First Place:
Amber Wesoloski, Emily Goldstein
Examining the Effectiveness of the Buzz in Pediatric Patients Undergoing an Injection

Second Place:
Taylor Burns
Mentor: Kristi Crowe-White (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management), Amy Ellis (HES - Human Nutrition and Hospitality Management)
Knowledge and Intake of Nutrient-dense Dietary Patterns are Deficient among College Students

Third Place:
Genevieve Smith
Mentor: Shinae Choi (HES - Consumer Sciences)
Mental Health of Full-time Aging Workers

Top Work in Progress Winner:
D’Kota Wyatt
Mentor: Dr. Maria Hernandez-Reif (HES - Human Development and Family Studies), Nahide Gungordu (HES - Human Development and Family Studies)
Sleep and Cortisol Levels in Early Childhood

Culverhouse College of Commerce

First Place:
Cory Myers, Austin George
Mentor: David Ford (C&BA - Management and Marketing)
Socio-Economic Impact of West Alabama Non-Profits

Second Place:
Harry Tenenbaum
Mentor: Greg Bott (C&BA - Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science)
Mobile Payment Adoption

Top Work in Progress Winner:
Parker Wilgus
Mentor: Mesut Yavuz (C&BA - Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science)
The Traveling Governor Problem