UF takes home first place in three categories at the second annual Florida Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium

Left to Right: Kimberly Hawkins and UOF Graduate Studies Dean and Vice Provost Ross Hinkle

Thirteen University of Florida graduate students put their research up against some of the best and brightest of their peers from across the state of Florida in the second annual Florida Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium, hosted at the University of Central Florida on April 24. Four of UF’s 13 brought home top awards in recognition of the high-level research done produced every day across the Gator Nation.

Each of the 81 participants was endorsed by the graduate dean of nine Florida universities. UF’s competitors were nominated from a pool of previous UF award winners from events across campus such as Graduate Student Research Day. The participants were placed into one of eight categories, including arts and humanities, biological sciences, education, engineering, health sciences, life sciences, physical sciences and social sciences.

Each student was required to produce a poster describing their research and answer the questions of roving judges from each institution represented, including the UF Graduate School’s own Dr. Tyisha Hathorn, Director of the Office of Graduate Minority Programs, and Dr. Rhonda Moraca, Assistant Dean for Administration.

“We continue to be justly proud of our graduate students and the quality of scholarly work they produce,” said Dr. Henry Frierson, dean of the UF Graduate School. Each of UF’s winners will be presented with a plaque by Dr. Frierson in recognition of their achievement.

In addition, UF competitors will not have to travel far for the third annual Florida Statewide Graduate Student Research Symposium, as the UF Graduate School has volunteered to host the event in mid-April 2016.
Complete list of winners:

Arts and Humanities
First Place – Leslie Todd, University of Florida, “Realism in Moche Ceramics: Why?”
Second Place – Jose Flores, University of Central Florida, “Immigrants in Florida: Exploring Meta-Data in the Florida Historical Quarterly”

Biological Sciences
First Place – Nzinga Mack, Florida A&M University, “Stable Knockdown of Lactate Dehydrogenase A in MDA-MB231 Cells Does Not Decrease Lactic Acid Production”
Second Place – Varshini Sridhar, Florida A&M University, “Identification and Characterization of Proteins Involved in Grape Disease Tolerance”

Education
Second Place – Umit Tokac, Florida State University, “Effects of Game-Based Learning on Students’ Mathematics Achievement: A Meta-Analysis”
Engineering
First Place – Jasmin Aira, University of South Florida, “Image-Based 3D Morphometric Analysis of the Clavicle Intramedullary Canal in Male Population”
Second Place – Annadanesh Shellikeri, Florida A&M University, “A Walk with Ions: Visualizing Ionic Movement in Energy Storage Devices using In-Situ NMR Spectroscopy”

Health Sciences
First Place – Stephanie Randall-Watts, University of South Florida, “Presence of Huffing during Voluntary Cough is Associated with Penetration-Aspiration in Individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis”
Second Place – Sahar Ajabshir, Florida Internation University, “Pulse Pressure and Blood Triglyceride Levels among a Young Multi-Ethnic Group Living in South Florida”

Life Sciences
First Place – Kimberly Hawkins for “Neurovascular Protection by Post-ischemic Injections of a Lipoxin A4 Receptor Agonist, BML-111, in a Rat Model of Ischemic Stroke”
Second Place – Regina Martuscello for “Dietary Attenuation of Tumor Metabolism Diminishes Propagation of Glioblastoma”

Physical Sciences
First Place – Joana Antunes, Florida International University, “DNA Methylation Markers as a Powerful Tool for Age Prediction and to Discriminate Body Fluids from Crime Scenes”
Second Place – Ryuichi Tsuchikawa, University of Central Florida, “Measurement of Resistance Induced by a Single Atom on Carbon Nanotubes”

Social Sciences
First Place – Ori Baber, University of Florida, “Can Urban Brownfield-to-Greenspace Redevelopment Encourage Childhood Physical Activity?”
Second Place – Zorina Manoni, University of Central Florida, “Osteoarthritis in the Andes: Prevalence and Patterning of Disease among Pre-Columbian Agro-Pastoralists from Kuelap”