13 Winners Announced at Second Annual GRaSP Day

The second annual Graduate Research and Scholarship Projects (GRaSP) day took place on Friday, October 28, 2016. The day showcased the research-related activities of graduate students to the wider campus community. Eleven awards and two honorable mentions were recognized at the awards reception. The awards were chosen by the judges from four major categories: demonstration, performances, talks, publications, and posters. Each category awarded first place and runner-up awards. Additionally, a People’s Choice Award was presented to the best participant from each category as chosen by attendees.

Students were awarded as follows:

Demonstrations and Performances Category:
- First Place: Mark Rikkers
- Runner-up: Nakanatsu
- People’s Choice Award: Emmam Caron

GRaSP Talks Category:
- First Place: Mark Chen
- Runner-up: Simon Rechitsky
- People’s Choice Award: Nakanatsu

At a conference for the Educational Society for Hybridization Propagation, Andrew Bocciardo won the Young Investigator Award for his work on improving the productivity of hybrid-ice and non-hybrid-ice rapid maize diagnostic tests. A chemical engineering doctoral student at the College of Engineering, he presented his research at the conference in Rome in October.

Fletcher's work centers on using capillarophores to detect certain bacteria. By utilizing these light-writing nanoparticles, he created a smartphone device which utilizes the phone’s camera to create a test which provides more reliable results than similar rapid diagnostic tests. With this innovation, the team hopes to begin refining this test for dengue fever using funding from the Cancer for Stature Control and Prevention Research Board.Rebecca Bliss

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

AIA Houston Names Susan Rogers Educator of the Year

Susan Rogers was recognized by the College of Architecture for her dedication to the field and her contributions to the University of Houston. Rogers has been a professor at the university for over 30 years and has been instrumental in shaping the architecture program.

Researchers Develop New Compound for Use in Solid-State Lasers

Department of Chemistry researchers S. Shih, whom the college of chemistry has named the 2015 Young Investigator Award winner, and Meng Li have recently synthesized a new compound that has potential for use in solid-state lasers.

The College of Education will participate in a consortium of six universities and their local e-school networks in a project called e-Partnership. The ePartnership creates a web of university and school districts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to develop and implement new teaching methods and technologies for the classroom. The project is funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

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