



Dwight Look College of
ENGINEERING
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Computer science students win big in Student Research Week

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By: **Kathy Flores**

Students from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering took home 12 awards during Texas A&M University's 16th annual **Student Research Week** in the newly renovated Memorial Student Center March 25-29.

Computer science and engineering students won five awards for their senior capstone design projects, two awards for other undergraduate research projects, and five awards for graduate research projects.

Graduate and undergraduate students from all of the University's academic colleges presented their research in oral or poster format. More than 700 entries were judged during the competitions that were held over a three-day period. Ten subject area awards and three overall awards were given to the first and second highest scoring presentations.

Two computer science and engineering undergraduate students tied for the first prize undergraduate Melbern G. Glasscock Humanities Award, presenting their computer science senior capstone projects under the advisement of Dr. Tracy Hammond. Andy Hampton tied for first with his poster presentation, "Kamistry: Discover Chemistry Through a New Dimension," with co-authors Bryant Poffenberger, Connor Taylor and adviser Hammond. Jennifer Than tied for first with her poster presentation, "Campus Compass: Helping Aggies Find their Way," with co-authors Ben Beadle, Colby Cartwright, Homer Werbiski and adviser Hammond. Stephanie Valentine, a Ph.D. student in the Sketch Recognition Lab advised by Hammond, captured second place in the Glasscock graduate category for her oral presentation, "Mechanix: A Sketch-Based Tutoring System for Statics Courses."

The Glasscock Humanities Award is given for the best presentation in all of the subject area categories across both oral and poster presentations. In addition to score sheets filled out for each student, the Glasscock Humanities award is given based on the interdisciplinary scope of the project and its humanities content (whether the project explores the meaning and understanding of human experience).

In the Math, Statistics, and Computer Science subject area, computer science and engineering students won every possible award. For the undergraduate awards, junior Mathew Barry, won first place in the oral subject area for his research project, "MathLex: A Web-Based Mathematical Entry System." Seniors Matthew Borders and Joseph Tomlinson won second place in the oral subject area for their capstone project, "Animal Games - Android Game with Table-Phone," with co-authors Danny Heo, Michael Lau, Bret Parker and adviser Hammond. Cesar A. Rodriguez, a Parasol Lab senior advised by Dr. Nancy Amato, won first place in the poster subject area for his research poster, "Blind RRT: A Probabilistically Complete Parallel RRT." Andy Hampton tied for second place in the poster subject area for his presentation, "Kamistry: Discover Chemistry Through a New Dimension," with co-authors Bryant Poffenberger, Connor Taylor and adviser Hammond. Jennifer Than tied for second with her presentation, "Campus Compass: Helping Aggies Find their Way," with co-authors Ben Beadle, Colby Cartwright, Homer Werbiski and adviser Hammond.

Regarding the graduate Math, Statistics, and Computer Science subject area awards, Stephanie Valentine won first place for her oral presentation, "Mechanix: A Sketch-Based Tutoring System for Statics Courses." Benjamin Thomas Fine, a Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Dylan Shell, captured second place for his oral presentation, "Exploring Group-level Behaviors Through Automatic Environment Generation." Yuriy Solodkyy, a Parasol Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Bjarne Stroustrup, took first place in the poster subject area for his research, "Open Pattern Matching for C++." Jason Wilkins, a Parasol Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Jaako Järvi, won second place in the poster subject area for his research, "GPU Glue: Application Extension Languages for End-User GPU Programming."

Additionally, Manoj Prasad, a Sketch Recognition Lab Ph.D. student advised by Hammond, won first place in the graduate oral subject area of Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Business, Education, Political Science, and Public Policy for his research, "Designing Spatial Factors."

Student Research Week is held by the Graduate Student Council in conjunction with the Office of Graduate Studies, Vice President for Research, Department of Student Life, and Undergraduate Programs & Academic Services, academic colleges, administrators, faculty,

and staff. The event is entirely managed by graduate students.