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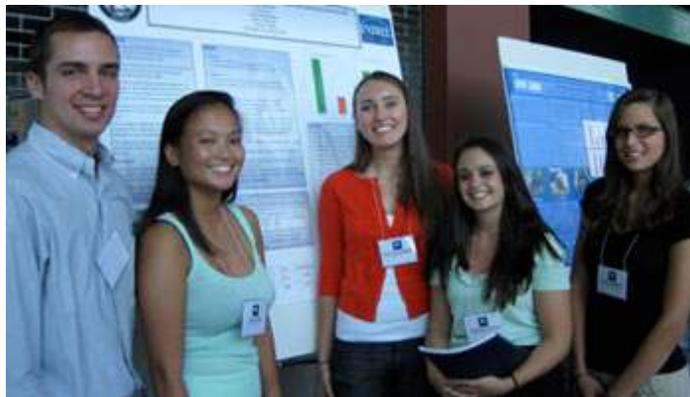
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PC Students, Faculty Present at Statewide Undergraduate Research Conference

Providence, R.I.--Twenty-one Providence College students and seven faculty members recently presented their scientific research at the third Rhode Island Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Conference.



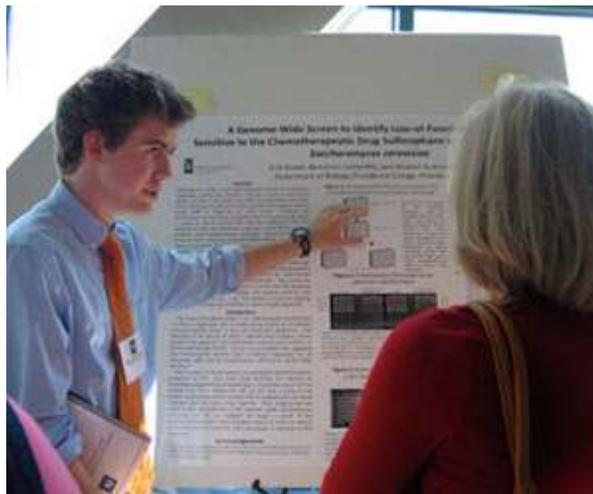
The conference, which was held at the University of Rhode Island, was attended by more than 200 faculty members, students, and administrators from several of the state's higher-education institutions.

The 94 presenters at the conference were undergraduate students who took part in 10 weeks of rigorous research with faculty mentors. The summer program is a collaboration of the Rhode Island Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) and the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).

INBRE, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, consists of members from PC, Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, Roger Williams University, and Salve Regina University.

EPSCoR, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, is a joint effort of the state's 11 higher-education institutions.

Both organizations' goals are to support and develop talented individuals who are committed to research careers in Rhode Island and to build the research capacity of Rhode Island higher-education institutions.



Valuable experience for students

Ari Nalbandian '12 of Cranston, R.I., was one of the PC student-presenters at the conference. Under the tutelage of Dr. Yinsheng Wan, associate professor of biology, Nalbandian presented "ER Response to UV Radiation in Cultured Human Skin Keratinocytes: CRT Translocation, EIF2? Phosphorylation and mTOR Signaling."

This was Nalbandian's second summer working with Wan in the program. He said one of the main benefits he received is a better understanding of what it takes to compile professional research.

"On an academic level, it taught me priceless information about how to gather, analyze, and present data in a convincing way," he said. "It showed me that people will take you seriously if you give them something worth taking seriously."

Nalbandian, who is a biology major with a minor in theology, added that the experience helped him gain connections with like-minded people.

"For me, it was mind-blowing to realize that what I was doing in the lab had actual implications in the real world and was interrelated with the research of others," he said. "I learned that research isn't isolated to your own individual lab, but is part of a much larger web of collective efforts."

Christopher Lang '11 of Troy, N.Y., spent the better part of the summer conducting research at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., with [Dr. John H. Costello](#), professor of biology.

"It was an honor to be there surrounded by great scientists who are supportive and helpful," he said. "As an undergraduate, it was great to get a taste of the next level of science that I can participate in after PC. I gained so much knowledge that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else."

Lang's poster presentation at the conference was entitled "Reproductive Response to Starvation of the Lobate Ctenophore, *Mnemiopsis leidyi*."

"Presenting my work was very exciting," he said. "My scientific skills are much more developed because of this great program."

For a complete list of the conference's student and faculty participants, go to http://issuu.com/universityofrhodeisland/docs/ri_surf_conference.

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