

92nd Annual Meeting Best Paper Awards**AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, and AQUACULTURE**

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Brittany B. Rice, Dept. of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech. Insulin-induced hypoglycemia is associated with gene expression changes in the liver and hypothalamus of chickens selected for low or high body weight.

Honorable Mention – Student Oral Presentations:

Betty R. McConn, Neuroendocrinology Laboratory, Dept. of Animal & Poultry Sciences, Virginia Tech. Elucidating gonadotropin-inhibitory hormone's mechanism of hunger stimulation.

Louis Nottingham, Dept. of Entomology, Virginia Tech. Investigating the movement and host selection of Mexican bean beetle, *Epilachna varivestis* Mulsant, among five host plants using mark-release-recapture.

Matthew Rhodes, Dept. of Biology, Eastern Mennonite University. Blueberry antioxidant analysis: Significance of soil treatment and cultivar selection on antioxidant concentrations in highbush blueberries.

ASTRONOMY, MATH and PHYSICS with MATERIAL SCIENCE

Best Student Oral Presentation and CARPENTER AWARD:

Quinton Rice, Advanced Center for Laser Science & Spectroscopy, Dept. of Physics, Hampton University. Temperature- and time-resolved spectroscopy of CuInS₂ semiconductor nanocrystals with ZnS capping .

BIOLOGY with MICROBIOLOGY and MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation and REMSBURG AWARD:

Carly A. York, Dept. of Biology, Old Dominion University. Lateral line analogue aids vision in predator evasion for brief squid (*Lolliguncula brevis*).

Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation:

Ryan N. Montalvo, Dept. of Biology & Chemistry, Liberty University. QseC expression regulates flhDC motility of *Escherichia coli* to increase colonization within the intestine.

Best Student Poster Presentation:

Amanda Hazy, Dept. of Biology & Chemistry, Liberty University. Comparison of brain and blood expression patterns in an Alzheimer's disease mouse model.

Honorable Mention – Student Poster Presentations:

Ekaterina Maraksova, School of Systems Biology, George Mason University. PrePs analysis of viral proteins potentially prenylated by human cells.

Hannah J. Drown, Dept. of Biology & Chemistry, Liberty University. Antibiotic dynamics of *Escherichia coli* populations in a streptomycin-treated mouse model.

BIOMEDICAL and GENERAL ENGINEERING

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Shirae K. Leslie, Dept. of Chemical and Life Science Engineering, Virginia Commonwealth University. Controlled release of rat-adipose derived stem cells from alginate microbeads.

BOTANY

Best Student Oral Presentation and BAKER AWARD:

Kristina Kowalski, Dept. of Organismal & Environmental Biology, Christopher Newport University. Vegetation patterns and hydrologic regimes in the Great Dismal Swamp.

Best Student Oral Presentation and HARVILL AWARD:

Shushil K. Paudyal, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University. An updated phylogeny of the tribe Chiococceae (Rubiaceae): New insights into taxonomic relationships.

CHEMISTRY

Best Student Oral Presentation and BRUNER AWARD:

Carla S. McKinney, Center for Materials Research, Norfolk State University. The effect of the presence of Ag on HOMO LUMO gaps in oligomers of thiophene.

MEDICAL SCIENCES

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Megan A. O'Brien, Dept. of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University. Alterations to the synaptic transcriptome in response to ethanol-induced sensitization.

Honorable Mention – Student Oral Presentation:

Malaika Argade, Dept. of Medicinal Chemistry, Virginia Commonwealth University. Quinazolines as novel human OCT3 inhibitors: Structure-activity studies.

Best Student Poster Presentation:

Aravind R. Gade, Dept. of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University. Chronic morphine enhances nicotine responses in single mouse enteric neurons.

Honorable Mention – Student Poster Presentations:

Mohammed Al Mohaini, Dept. of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Virginia Commonwealth University. Development of natural cyclic peptide inhibitors of XRCC4/XLF interaction for radio-sensitization of breast tumor cells.

Kevin Tavakolian, Center for the Study of Chronic Metabolic Diseases, George Mason University. Adiponectin expression in patients suffering from metabolic disorders.

NATURAL HISTORY and BIODIVERSITY

Best Graduate Student Oral Presentation and WOOLCOTT AWARD:

Erin Heller, Dept. of Biology, Old Dominion University. The effects of urbanization on the relationship among birds, ticks, and tick-borne pathogens.

Best Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation and WOOLCOTT AWARD:

Bryan Finch, Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Mary Washington. Using trail cameras to monitor wildlife in Stafford County, Virginia.

PSYCHOLOGY

Best Student Poster Presentation and RAY KIRBY AWARD:

Patrick Weaver, Center for Health Disparities, Virginia Commonwealth University. Examination of the relation among family resources, adherence and glycemic control in adolescents with Type 1 diabetes.

STATISTICS

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Pooja Sengupta, Dept. of Mathematics & Statistics, Old Dominion University. Bivariate doubly-inflated Poisson and related regression.

Honorable Mention – Student Oral Presentation:

Olushina Olawale Awe, Dept. of Statistics, Virginia Tech. A time-varying parameter state space model for the Nigerian economy.

STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY, BIOCHEMISTRY and BIOPHYSICS

Best Student Oral Presentation:

Xiaolin Zhao, Protein Signaling Domains, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Virginia Tech. Structural basis of membrane targeting of the innate immunity adaptor TIRAP.

Best Student Poster Presentation:

Kenneth Lawrence, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology, Virginia Commonwealth University. Using colocalization assays to define suppressor of IKK-epsilon function.