

# 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium

## Fact Sheet

### History and Format

The Division of Undergraduate Studies launched the UO Undergraduate Research Symposium in 2011 to provide students from across the disciplines a public space to share their original ideas, discoveries, creations, and research in a supportive yet professional academic conference setting.

The Symposium invites students to showcase their work through oral, poster, and creative work presentations encompassing art installations, science demonstrations, film screenings, and live music, dance, theatre, and spoken word performances.

The Undergraduate Symposium debuted in 2011 with 69 presenters and 40 faculty mentors spanning 20 majors and four colleges, and in its seventh year has grown to 292 presenters and 177 faculty mentors spanning 60 majors and eight colleges. Over the past seven years the Symposium has hosted nearly 1200 student presenters.

### Breadth of Presenters

The disciplinary breadth of the Undergraduate Symposium has also expanded from a 2011 representation of 59% Science, 22% Social Science, 12% Humanities, and 7% Fine/Performing Arts to a 2017 distribution of 45% Science, 31% Social Science, 19% Humanities, 3% Fine/Performing Arts and 2% Design.

The Symposium solicits presentation proposals from multi-term projects (70%), such as honors theses and capstone projects, as well as single-term (21%) projects produced within research seminars and colloquia. The Symposium has also committed to increasing the number of presentations from community-based research (6%), service learning (1%), and study abroad/international projects (2%).

The distribution of presentation form has also gradually equalized over the past six years, from a 2011 distribution of 70% posters, 27% oral, and 3% creative work to a 2017 distribution of 52% poster, 41% oral, and 6% creative work. A new “Creative Works Concurrent Session” added to the Symposium in 2017 spotlights these presenters and ensures they enjoy the unique spaces and equipment to accommodate their work.

The 2017 Symposium also debuted the integration of “Academic Residential Communities Day” to support the curriculum of Academic Residential Communities (ARC), which foster a scaffolded engagement with undergraduate research for first- and second-year students throughout the academic year in their ARC seminar courses. ARC Faculty Directors, Program Coordinators, peer mentors, and ARC students will deliver group presentations sharing their experiential, applied, and community-engaged research projects beginning with the Umoja Pan-African Scholars and LGBTQIA+ Scholars ARCs.

### Academic and Funding Support for Researchers and Presenters

The Symposium Planning Committee, co-chaired by Kevin Hatfield and Josh Snodgrass, collaborate closely with the new Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement (CURE)—directed by Josh Snodgrass—and the Associated Students for Undergraduate Research (ASUR) student organization to

host a robust series of preparatory workshops and tutorial sessions to strengthen students' skills with abstract writing, poster design, and public speaking. ASUR members and CURE faculty and staff also hold drop-in office hours in the Global Scholars Hall Learning Commons.

To assist students with continuing to disseminate their scholarship after the Symposium, they are invited to perform ten-minute video interviews with UO Libraries videographers. These post-produced videos are shared with the students and streamed on the UO Channel. Presenters may also elect to archive their multimedia files, including papers, slideshows, and posters, in the UO Libraries Scholars Bank on-line repository. Finally, UO Libraries photographers capture every poster and creative work presenter with their displays, and videographers film three to four full oral presentation panels annually that are also hosted on the UO Channel.

Beginning in AY2015-2016 the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) has incorporated presenting at the annual Undergraduate Symposium as a requirement for all recipients of the UROP Mini-Grants, Vice President for Research & Innovation (VPRI) Fellowships, Presidential Undergraduate Research Scholarships, and Humanities Undergraduate Research (HURF) Fellowships. This year 43 students awarded scholarships through these programs will present at the Symposium.

Overall, 119 presenters at the 2017 Symposium received research funding from 61 internal and external sources.

The Symposium collaborates with campus partners who sponsor six judged awards for the top presenters in various fields and formats totaling \$2,900.

- **Biology Poster Award** – The Biology Department offers one \$300 award to the student with the best poster, and two \$100 awards for posters with honorable mention, in the fields of biology and marine biology.
- **Food Studies Award** – The Food Studies Program and Division of Undergraduate Studies offers one \$300 award and one \$100 award for honorable mention recognizing oral or poster presentations focused on a topic in the broad, interdisciplinary field of food studies.
- **International Studies Department Award** – The International Studies Department offers one \$300 award to the student with the best presentation (oral or poster), and two \$100 awards for honorable mention, focused on an international or intercultural topic.
- **Oral Presentation Award** – The Division of Undergraduate Studies awards \$500 to recognize an undergraduate oral presentation in any discipline characterized by excellence in research and clarity of delivery.
- **Pre-Med Research Poster Award** – The Robert D. Clark Honors College awards \$500 to recognize a project in the life sciences with unique or innovative medical applications, or which advances the known frontiers of medical research. Dr. Terry Morgan, Associate Professor and Program Director, Cytopathology Fellowship at Oregon Health Sciences University, Department of Pathology evaluated the eligible posters.
- **UROP Poster Award** – The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, Office of Research and Innovation awards \$500 to recognize an undergraduate poster presentation in any discipline characterized by excellence in research and clarity of delivery.

## **Symposium Sponsors**

The principal co-sponsors of the Undergraduate Research Symposium from 2011 through 2017 are the Division of Undergraduate Studies, the Office of Research and Innovation, University Housing, and Robert D. Clark Honors College.

The financial and in-kind contributions of these co-sponsors have made it possible to defray the costs of all poster printing for presenters, as well as the preparatory workshops, and overall event expenses.

The Symposium also benefits invaluablely from the numerous UO faculty, staff and graduate and undergraduate students who volunteer to serve on the planning committee and as abstract reviewers, panel moderators, award judges, and event volunteers.

Prepared by Kevin Hatfield