

ARC-CALIFORNIA



1995 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Hosted by **CAMP**California Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics *University of California, Irvine*

The California AMP Program gratefully acknowledges the support of

The National Science Foundation

Dr. Luther S. Williams, Assistant Director
Education and Human Resources
Dr. Roosevelt Calbert, Deputy Division Director
Human Resource and Development
Dr. William E. McHenry, Program Officer
Alliances for Minority Participation

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Southern California Edison
President Jack Peltason & the UC Regents' Diversity Initiative
Chancellor Laurel L. Wilkening, UCI
Executive Vice Chancellor Sidney H. Golub, UCI
and Vice Chancellor Manuel N. Gómez, Student Services, UCI

GOALS OF THE 1995 AMP RESEARCH CONFERENCE

- •Encourage undergraduate research
- Bolster student skills as scientists and communicators
- Provide a forum for students to interact with faculty and peers
- •Set the national standards for undergraduate research presentations





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Special thanks to ALAN THORNHILL for developing judging criteria and guidelines for student poster and oral competition

Proceedings

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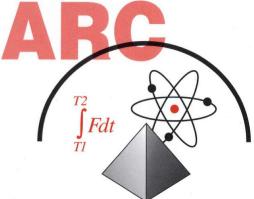
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On the front cover: Diego Carlton, Illinois Institute of Technology, receives congratulations from Dr. Luther Williams for his first place prize in Math/Computer Science. On the back cover: Marjorie DeMartino and Moisés Torres display conference T-shirt; Winston Wilson (Midlands Technical College), first place winner in Math/Computer Science, enjoys credit card tug-of-war with Drs. Juan Francisco Lara and Frederic Wan.

THE CAMP STATEWIDE MESSAGE FROM



ARC: Where

No Alliance has

Gone Before

On behalf of CAMP, it is a pleasure to present the proceedings of the 1995 AMP Research Conference, ARC-California, highlighting undergraduate achievement. This national conference marked a hallmark of the first four years of

the California Alliance, and exemplified the collective spirit of the AMPs. We were honored to welcome our distinguished guests from the National Science Foundation, Drs. Luther Williams, Roosevelt Calbert, and William McHenry.

Their presence added significantly to the conference's success, and embodied the synergy of the alliances coming together for student development.

Faculty and students from 16 National Alliances for Minority Participation converged at Irvine for an exciting undergraduate research competition. These highly motivated and determined young scientists and engineers won accolades and certificates of excellence for merit in disciplinespecific categories. Their success derives directly from the commitment of faculty. The awards ceremony was a high-

light for the students and the judges who so carefully critiqued both the oral presentations and poster sessions.

Collectively, AMP directors and faculty have endeavored to shape the vision of purpose that includes undergraduate research and internships, bringing real world flavor to classroom learning. ARC's ambition was no less than that of CAMP, to set the highest standards for undergraduate research. Encouraging students to

> apply scientific knowledge crystallizes what the AMP program is ultimately about and accurately reflects the tradition of the University of California and the nature of

our research mission. If a vision describes what an

undergraduate education should provide, we know that expectations create the building blocks for that vision, directly translating into specific abilities and knowledge. As I visit affiliated institutions, the research experience is brought home as a pivotal influence on an undergraduate's future and a platform for graduate education. From conversations around the state and the nation, I am convinced that it influences career choices in a way that nothing else can touch.

It is gratifying to support the career aspirations of our science, engineering, mathematics and technology majors and to

> know that through the Alliances they are in good hands. I thank all those who traveled from across the nation to attend ARC in Southern California and hope you enjoy revisiting that excitement through these proceedings.



Manuel N. Gómez Vice Chancellor, Division of Student Services, UCI Statewide Director, CAMP

CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to "ARC," the University of California's national scientific conference spotlighting undergraduate research supported by the Alliances for Minority Participation.

CAMP and our companion alliances constitute a very im-

portant venture. Together we endeavor to improve our capacity to effectively mine talent — the talent of promising scientists and mathematicians who have much to offer in the coming century. Together we have made substantive achieve-

ments in addressing barriers faced by underrepresented groups. In our mutual goals, I am pleased to affirm that our first and primary strategy in science, engineering and mathematics education is a shared commitment to excellence.

Through the alliances for minority participation, we have a multi-tier enterprise, engaging the entire scientific community. It's an intergenerational approach: faculty mentoring undergraduates who in turn have opportunities to serve as role models for high school students planning a college career.

We know that CAMP works because we have produced graduates who are not only degree recipients, but going places

with their degrees — to graduate and professional school, to private industry, to the greater community. Our students have won internships in the nation's most prestigious institutions: MIT, Harvard, Rutgers,

Marquette, Berkeley, Cornell, and in the national laboratories: JPL, Argonne, and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory.

At a recent conference here at Irvine, one participant (who happened to be a woman and an engineer) said, "What poli-

"I too was an undergraduate researcher, and it provided a gateway to my career in science."

tics gives, politics can take away."
But we have something that politics can never remove — the dedication and commitment of individuals who are here to stay and work toward the common good.
Our faculty are among the best,

and they care deeply about the progress and ultimate success of students. The problem of underrepresentation is not intractable; it is subject to solutions. The AMPs certainly make up one of those solutions, making higher education a better place for all of us.

I want to extend a special welcome to all those who traveled from across the country to join us for ARC. I also want to add my congratulations to all the student presenters. This experience is a valuable step in your university education. We know that there is a strong correlation between undergraduates engaged in research and those who eventually be-

come scientists. I myself was an undergraduate researcher, and it provided a gateway to my career in science. Best wishes to you and, once again, welcome to the scientific community. Have a great conference at UCI!



Laurel L. Wilkening Chancellor, UCI

HIGHLIGHTS THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS FROM



Integrating Science for the Knowledge-Based Economy of

the 21st Century

Dr. Luther Williams' keynote speech at the plenary Session of the third annual Alliances for Minority Participation (AMP) Research Conference presented a vision for the 21st century. Placing the program in the context of major eco-

nomic trends, he pointed to its role and contributions in preparing students for participation in a primarily knowledge-based work forceone in which knowledge has largely replaced capital and labor as the most critical of resources. He challenged the project directors to work

with him to expand the AMP program's track record as a profitable investment in the nation's economic well-being. As a vehicle for enhancing the United States' intellectual capital in science and mathematics, the AMP program will forge new partnerships with public and private sector institutions and will play an expanded role in linking research and education.

Dr. Williams was introduced by Dr. Frederic Wan, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies at the University of California, Irvine, who referred to Dr. Williams as "the most influential person in science and mathematics education in the U.S. today." In his introduction, Dr. Wan pointed to a number of Dr. Williams' seminal achievements including, for example, creating a vision of education reform that

recognized the need for improvements to be "systemic in order to be consequential."

Dr. Williams noted that, as Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources, responsible for directing \$600 million of program funds, he has emphasized "excellence, equity, opportunity for all, accountability, and measurement of outcomes." He spoke specifically about the AMP program and pointed out that the return to society from the program has been far greater than the investment made. He noted that the program "broke rank" with earlier "failed" efforts in categorical education programs. The program has "established high expectation, a high level of accountability, an emphasis on results, outcomes and indicators by which we measure progress."

In examining the significance of NSF education programs,

Dr. Williams noted the "dismal" United States in science and mathematics compared with the perforcally. He cited the resourceshundreds of billions of dollars-

performance of 13-year-olds in the mance of students in other nations with which we compete economi-

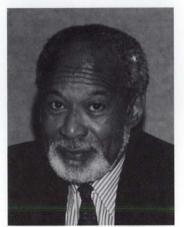
that are lost annually in the U.S. as a result of graduates of our education system not being prepared to perform the functions that are required in the nations's work force. Further, despite the fact that the nation invests a great deal of resources in education—over \$540 billion annually—only a small fraction of these funds are invested in science and mathematics education. Dr. Williams emphasized the critical importance of systemic K-12 reform, of attention to diversity, and of ensuring quality preparation for a knowledgebased work force. He spoke of the role of the AMP program as a vital component in the fabric of the U.S. economy.

What attributes will increasingly characterize the AMP program as it moves into its sixth year? These include: expanded partnerships with business and industry and with

> the research sector; more integration between research and education; an expanded focus on the development of intellectual capital; and attention the necessary infrastructure for achieving these ends.

> As we move into the 21st century, academia will continue to play a central role in creating and transmitting knowledge. This role will require increased integration and better linkages between research and education. The AMP program is one that can contribute substantially to this endeavor and which "we have every reason to be proud of but has only just begun."





Luther S. Williams Assistant Director Education and Human Resources

CONFERENCE **AGENDA**

SUNDAY, JULY 30 -TUESDAY, AUGUST 1,

Sunday Evening, July 30

"Just Desserts" Reception

Greeting by Vice Chancellor Manuel N. Gómez

Introduction of Dr. Arthur Benjamin, Mathemagician, by Dr. Kenneth Millett, UC Santa Barbara

Monday, July 31

Welcome by Chancellor Laurel L. Wilkening Introduction of Dr. Luther Williams by Vice Chancellor Frederic Wan

Plenary Session Keynote: Dr. Williams

Student Oral Presentations and Poster Sessions

Lunch — Mariachi Style!

Student Oral Presentations and Poster Sessions, continued

Student Panel, Private Lab Experience Professor Elma Gonzalez, Moderator

Student Panel, Teaching as an Option Sonia Mucarsel, Project SMART, Moderator

Group Photos!

Awards Banquet

Student Awards Presented by: Dr. Luther S. Williams Dr. Roosevelt Calbert

Tuesday, August 1

Faculty Presentations:

"Deep Ocean Drilling, ODP Leg 160" Dr. Michael Howell, University of South Carolina, and Dr. Andrew Roberts, **UC** Davis

"From Molecular Biology to Molecular Medicine' Dr. Melvin Green, UC San Diego

"Scanning Probe Microscopy" Dr. Antonio A. Garcia, Arizona State University

STUDENT PRESENTERS

POSTER SESSIONS Morning

Biological Sciences: Jacquelyn Collins, Tuskegee University

LaToya M. Sawyer, Tuskegee University

Jason Taylor, University of California, Santa Cruz Wendy Velasco, University of California, Irvine

Engineering:

Ed Milligan, University of California, Davis Steven Fonseca, University of

California, Davis

Karuna Warren, Northwestern University

Rachel Walsh, New Mexico State University

Anderozzi Ésdaille, Stanford University

Fermin A. Samorano, University of Arizona

Donald Nega University of Texas - Pan American Monica Hernandez, University of Texas, El Paso

Math/Computer Science:

Claudia Inman. Occidental College Diego Carlton, Illinois Institute of Technology Trena Covington, N.C. A&T State University

Physical Sciences:

San Antonio

Roberto Amador, Occidental College David Irick, So. Carolina State

University Earl Stone, University of Texas,

Afternoon

Biological Sciences:

Jamie R. Rowe, Tuskegee University

Moncenya Chatman, Auburn University

Walter Lech, University of California, Los Angeles Tyrone Perrin, Chicago State

University Miguel Rocha, New Mexico State University

Engineering:

Jessica Almaraz, University of California, Los Angeles Deborah Apodaca, New Mexico

State University John D. Romo, Borough of

Manhattan CC

Miguel A. Rosa, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Mark DeHerrera, Arizona State University

Estrella Anchondo, University of Texas, El Paso

Math/Computer Science:

Conrad Taylor, University of Othniel Williams, City College of

Physical Sciences:

New York

Madeline S. León, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Terry Green Claflin, College

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Biological Sciences:

Tori Evans, University of California, Santa Cruz Esteban Linares, Loyola University Sandra Arellano, California State University, Sacramento

Norman Moore, University of California, Los Angeles Jacqueline Jacobsen, University of California, Davis Sandra Gonzalez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez

Engineering:

Vladimir Sierra, University of Texas, Austin

Antonia M. Romero, New Mexico State University Nicholas D. Gardner, University of Southern Mississippi Gilberto Mosqueda, University of California, Irvine

Angelica Robles, Arizona State University

Richard Coronado, University of Texas, El Paso

Miguel Green, Stanford

University Jeffrey Rivas, University of Texas, El Paso

Math/Computer Science:

Nnenna Nwanju, Polytechnic University

Winston Wilson, Midlands Technical College

Sharlene Heyward, Voorhees College

Frederick Cooper, Clemson University

Physical Sciences:

Kevin Thigpen, University of Southern Mississippi Jackeline Santiago, University of Puerto Rico, Humacao Carrie Noriega, University of California, San Diego Nicole Scarborough, Chicago State University David Vargas, Queensboro CC

"A showcase of student research.

STUDENT PANELS

Private Lab Experience _

Moderator: PROFESSOR ELMA

GONZALEZ Department of Biology University of California, Los Angeles

GILBERT MOSQUEDA University of California, Argonne National Lab

VLADIMIR SIERRA University of Texas at

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

JESSICA ALMARAZ University of California, Los Angeles University of Nevada, Las Vegas MICHAEL SICK, Guilford College, N.C. Lawrence Livermore National

Teaching as an Option _

Moderator: SONIA MUCARSEL, Project SMART

University of California, Irvine

Juan Pommier, Mathematics Miguel Hernandez, Physical Sciences Maria Torres, Biology Lourdes Almeida, Mathematics Steve Curiel, Physical Sciences Druemeka Irving, General Science

FIRST PLACE WINNERS







Richard Coronado



Walter Lech



Madeline León

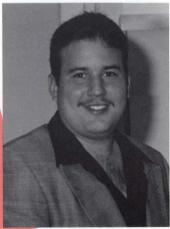


"The cooperative spirit and friendliness was an overall good feature."

—Undergraduate, North Carolina AMP



Norman Moore



Miguel Rosa

ORAL PRESENTATIONS



Discipline: Engineering

AMP Region: *University of Texas System* **Faculty Mentor:** *Dr. Jorge Lopez*

Place: 1st Place

GRAVITATIONAL WAVE SIGNATURES IN SATELLITE TRACKING DATA

Satellite tracking is done with an electromagnetic link between an earth tracking station and the satellite. A signal is sent from earth to the satellite, which in turn receives and transmits the original signal back. The signal could be altered by a passing gravitational wave in space. The detection of such a wave would be a major step as astrophysics. In this work, the tracking data is studied through autocorrelation, correlogram, and periodogram analysis techniques to detect the presence of a gravitational wave in al altered signal. This study is done in collaboration with the Jet Propulsion Laboratories.

Presenter: SANDRA GONZÁLEZ-RAMÍREZ

Institution: University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus

Discipline: Biological Sciences **AMP Region**: Puerto Rico

Faculty Mentor: Duane A. Kolterman and Gary J. Breckson

Place: 2nd Place

PHENOTYPIC VARIATION IN GESNERIA PAUCIFLORA URBAN (GESNERIACEAE), A RARE PLANT ENDEMIC TO SERPENTINE IN THE MARICAO FOREST, PUERTO RICO

Gesneria pauciflora Urban (Gesneriaceae) is a serpentine endemic plant limited to three river drainages in the Maricao Commonwealth Forest, located in western Puerto Rico. It has been proposed for listing as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Analysis of variation within and among populations was conducted using leaf morphometric studies. The morphometric analysis showed that leaf size differs

Sonia Mucarsel and Maria Torres at the awards dinner.



significantly between sun and shade populations; this variation was attributed to phenotypic plasticity. Considerable among-population variation was found in leaf shape, primarily in the length / width ratio, indicating that there is genetic variation among populations. Electrophoretic studies of foliar isoenzymes are being conducted to test these findings.

"The most outstanding feature was the participation of undergraduates from all over the United States and Puerto Rico."

-Graduate Student, UCLA

Presenter: NORMAN MOORE

Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

Discipline: Biological Sciences **AMP Region:** California

Faculty Mentor: Dwayne D. Simmons

Place: 1st Place

NEUROTRANSMITTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE INNER EAR

As neurons grow toward their target cells during development, they synthesize specific neurotransmitters that are important for mature function. Previous immunocytochemical studies of developing olivocochlear neurons in the brainstem have suggested a possible scheme by which the cochlea becomes innervated by this efferent feedback system. The focus of this study was to corroborate this developmental scheme and to suggest further the role that neurotransmitters may have. Using antibodies against the synthetic enzymes choline acetyltransferase (ChAT) and glutamate decarboxylase (GAD), the developmental expression of acetylcholine and g-amino butyric acid, respectively, was thus implied. In the brainstem superior olive, ChAT expression was not found until postnatal day (P) 5 within cell bodies, which, was consistent with the ChAT expression found within cochlear axons. At P4, ChAT-positive label was found consistently in basal regions of the cochlea in areas such as the intraganglionic spiral bundles (IGSB) and also weakly below inner hair-cell receptors. By P8 ChAT expression in the cochlea was adult like, that is, positive label was found within the IGSB as well as below inner hair cells and outer hair cells. In both the brainstem and cochlea, GAD-positive label was found at P12 but not at either P4 or P6. In the cochlea, label was found in two areas: below the inner hair-cells and between Deiters cells. At both P20 and P25, GADpositive label was weaker than at P12. These results are consistent with the hypothesis that the first efferent neurons to grow into the cochlea are ones which eventually contact cochlear outer hair cell receptors.

Presenter: SHARLENE HEYWARD

Institution: Voorhees College Discipline: Math/Computer Science AMP Region: South Carolina Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ajit Randhawa

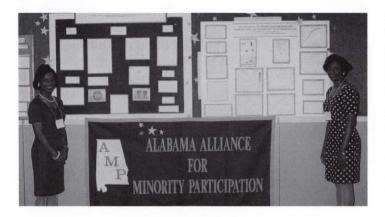
Place: 2nd Place

SOFTWARE METRICS: MEASURING PASCAL PROGRAMMING SOFTWARE

In the summer of 1994, I had the opportunity to research the concept of software metrics under the instruction of Dr. Caroline Eastman at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. Provided by the South Carolina AMP, the opportunity allowed me to research ways that I believed would be easy and understandable ways for novice programmers to chart the difficulty of programs set before them and for instructors to chart the progress of programming assignments.

Using only Pascal programs, the tools used to measure these programs were the number of source lines of code, the looping structure, the block-IF looping structure, and the ease of transferring these programs form Pascal language to Basic language.

The research did show that these tools were efficient for measuring the progress in assignments while at the same time showing that the compilation time and run time increased as the codes became longer and the looping structures increased its number of executable lines. The portability tool showed that transferring a program from one language to another increases the number of source lines of code, but the number of major change to fit the design of the language were few.



Presenter: GILBERTO MOSQUEDA
Institution: University of California, Irvine

Discipline: Engineering **AMP Region**: California

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Roberto Villaverde

Place: 2nd Place — Tie

EFFECTS OF A ROOF-MOUNTED DAMPER OF THE SEISMIC RESPONSE OF STRUCTURES

The seismic response of a model steel structure will be tested to determine the effectiveness of damping devices located on the roof supports, as a means of increasing the structures damping. Previous studies indicate damping appendages with specific mass and damping

characteristics sufficiently reduce the seismic response of structures. Currently, in practice, dampers are being used at the base of structures. However, the location proposed herein offers to reduce the risk of failure of dampers by reducing the loads to which they are subjected. Furthermore, the structures vibrations should decrease with only an increase in the roof vibrations. The seismic response of a 5-story damped structure will be experimentally calculated and compared to the response of a similar undamped model. The testing will be done on shaking tables set simulate previous earthquakes, in particular, the Northridge earthquake of 1994. A numerical analysis study will also be conducted by modeling the structure with finite elements.

Presenter: NICOLE SCARBOROUGH Institution: *Chicago State University*

Discipline: *Physical Sciences* **AMP Region:** *Chicago*

Faculty Mentor: Justin Akujieze

Place: 1st Place

RAPID SYNTHESIS OF COPPER OXIDE BASE SUPERCONDUCTORS

Conventional ceramic techniques for synthesizing single phase cuprate superconductors typically involve multiple high-temperature (800C) firings with intermediate mixing and grinding. Yielding particle sizes of several microns to tens of microns.

Such large particle sizes have been implicated in grain connectivity problems, particularly in wire fabrication. Low temperature (600C) synthesis from highly reactive metal hydroxide precursors solve this problem in two ways: First, the precursors powders have extremely fine (submicron) particle size, and, second, the low temperature of the reactions minimizes loss of materials and ensures homogeneity in the sample matrix. We describe synthetic methods for forming high quality powders of T1₂Ba₂CuO₆ (T1-2201), T1₂Ba₂CaCu₂O₈ (T1-2212), Bi₂Sr₂CaCu₂O₂ (Bi-2212), YBa₂Cu₃O₇- (Y-123) at low temperatures and/or extremely short reaction times (10 hr). The effect of nominal composition, temperature, and time on synthesis and superconducting transition temperature are discussed. Presently, superconductivity has not been found in Y-123 with this method but research in this area is ongoing.

Presenter: VLADIMIR SIERRA

Institution: University of Texas at Austin

Discipline: Engineering **AMP Region:** North Carolina **Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Robert Bishop

Place: 2nd Place — Tie

COMETARY MISSION DESIGN USING LOW-THRUST SPACECRAFT

Comets, asteroids and other small bodies make up a considerable percentage of the solar system. Because of their comparatively small sizes, comets are likely to have escaped the complex processes that transformed the larger bodies. They are, therefore, believed to be the most primitive objects remaining in the solar system. It is thus clear that an adequate knowledge of our solar system merits close study of these

smaller wandering bodies. Various types of space missions, then, must be designed to accomplish this task. Because comets have, in general, such elliptical orbits, (some of which come within 70 million kilometers of the sun and which go beyond the orbit of Pluto) a great deal of fuel mass is needed to reach them. Mission studies made in the late 1970's showed that the most feasible type of mission that could be designed was a low-thrust mission which made use of a then experimental ion engine. In this talk, it is proposed to use the now developed ion propulsion technology to perform a rendezvous with the sun-orbiting Comet Encke.

The purpose of this talk is to show the different aspects involved in the preliminary design of a low-thrust cometary mission. In order to better understand the rationale behind the design of such a mission, a brief look at cometary science is taken. A major part of the research was spent in the design of the trajectory, and thus a proportionate amount of this talk is dedicated to explaining the methods used in the design of the optimal trajectory, as well as detailing the results obtained to date.

"The private lab research helped me the most. I am a freshman and would not even have tried to apply for an internship, but now I know I will."

-Attendee, UC Riverside

Presenter: KEVIN THIGPEN

Institution: *The University of Southern Mississippi*

Discipline: *Physical Sciences* **AMP Region**: *Mississippi*

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lon J. Mathias & Dr. Duygu Avci

Place: 2nd Place — Tie

SYNTHESIS AND PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION OF ESTER DERIVATIVES OF ETHYL μ -HYDROXYMETHYLACRYLATE

New para substituted benzoate ester derivatives of ethyl μ -hydroxymethyl acrylate were synthesized using phase transfer catalysis. Derivatives made include the p-fluorobenzoate, p-methoxybenzoate, p-methylbenzoate and p-nitrobenzoate. Reactivities of these monomers in photopolymerizations was investigated using photodifferential scanning calorimeter and 2,2-dimethoxy-2-phenylacetophenone as initiator, results were compared with those of the nonaromatic ester derivatives (formate, acetate, hexanoate). Overall reactivities of the nonaromatic esterderivatives increased with the length of the side chain (hexanoate > acetate > formate). Aromatic ester derivatives are more reactive than nonaromatic derivatives with the photopolymerization rate decreasing in the order p-methoxybenzoate > p-methylbenzoate > p-flurobenzoate > benzoate > alkyl esters.

Presenter: DAVID VARGAS

Institution: Queensborough Community College

Discipline: Physical Sciences **AMP Region:** New York City **Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Frank Scalzo

Place: 2nd Place — Tie

TRACKING STORMS: OBSERVATIONS AND SIMULATIONS

To assess the future impact of climate change, one must investigate climate variability. Climate variability represents how the state of the atmosphere has changed over time. This study uses sea-level pressure data from 1957 to 1989 to construct a climatology containing the tracks and frequency of storms, as well as the location of the most severe storms. In order to investigate storm track variability, the climatology is organized by season and El Niño strength. To evaluate the use of storm tracks as a tool in future climate impact studies, a comparison of seasonal storm tracks between observation and the NASA Goddard Institute's general climate model is also presented. Preliminary results from this research show a tendency for a higher frequency of storm tracks for non-El Niño years in the Western U.S., and a higher frequency of storm tracks for strong El Niños in the Eastern Pacific, and off of the East Coast of the U.S. In addition a marked difference in storm frequency between the model and observation was found, possibly due to a phase shift in the planetary wave.

Poster presenter enjoys explaining her research.



Presenter: WINSTON WILSON
Institution: Midlands Technical College

Discipline: Math/Computer Science
AMP Region: South Carolina

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ronald L. Drayton

Place: 1st Place

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SOFTWARE

My oral presentation will address the use of Artificial Intelligence software which will allow an individual to use the computer as a consultant. My program will act as a computer configuration expert and assist in selecting an appropriate computer configuration. The decisions made by the computer will be tied into preset configuration categories which include Multi-Media, Programming, Database, CAD/CAM, and Desktop Publishing.

CONFERENCE



Clockwise from left, Elma Gonzalez, Marilyn Moriarty, Julia Wan.



Below, Melvin Green with San Diego contingent.



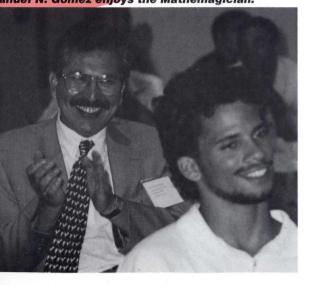




HIGHLIGHTS



anuel N. Gómez enjoys the Mathemagician.





"Just Desserts started things off with a vibrancy and enthusiasm that held up throughout."

—UC Santa Barbara Attendee

"It was helpful to see the direction NSF is heading in their funding and the reasons for their financial support."

-New York City AMP Attendee

"Learning to love the lab was great."

-Puerto Rico AMP Participant



Distinguished guests from NSF: Drs. Luther Williams, Roosevelt Calbert and William McHenry.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Presenter: DEBORAH L. APODACA Institution: New Mexico State University

Discipline: Engineering **AMP Region**: New Mexico

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Adrian Hanson

Place: 2nd Place

THE REMOVAL OF LEAD FROM SOIL USING PEIC, A CHELATING WATER SOLUBLE POLYMER

The main focus of this research is the remediation of lead-contaminated soil. The soil being used in this study is taken from Cal-West, a Superfund site where operation of a lead battery recycling plant has resulted in greater than 10,000ppm lead contamination in the soil. This weathered soil is being used as a surrogate for soils found on DOE sites in the arid southwest, such as the Los Alamos Meson Physics Facility (LAMPF). The most common cheating agent for lead removal is EDTA, ethylene diaminetetraacetic acid, and excellent lead binder. However, there are several problems with EDTA, in particular the difficulty posed when trying to regenerate the chelator. We are investigating the water soluble polymer PEIC for lead removal. PEIC, which is synthesized by functionalization of polyethylenimine (PEI from BASF Corporation) with bromoacetate, is EDTA-like in its lead-binding capabilities. However, because PEIC is easily separated by ultrafiltration, potential for regeneration and reuse is high.

Presenter: **DIEGO CARLTON**

Institution: *Illinois Institute of Technology* **Discipline:** *Math/Computer Science*

AMP Region: Chicago

Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Karriannes

Place: 1st Place

INTERACTIVE TUTORIALS USING HYPERCARD

While interactive tutorials have existed at the grammar and high school levels for some time now, there is still little material on the market at the college level, especially in the area of Physics and Engineering. The aim of this project is to develop interactive tutorials for students in college level courses through the use of Hypercard. Hypercard allows for the easy integration of multimedia into tutorials, which is often a necessity in getting the concepts in advanced material across to students. A base template will be developed so that instructors in any class can create custom tutorials to serve the needs of their students. These tutorials will allow students to view topics an many levels as well as to cross reference between topics. The hope is to develop a self paced learning experience that will serve students at all academic levels.

Presenter: JACQUELYN COLLINS

Institution: University of Alabama in Huntsville and

Tuskegee University

Discipline: Biological Sciences **AMP Region**: Alabama

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne E. Ross and Dr. Adriel Johnson

Place: 2nd Place

IDENTIFICATION OF IN VITRO ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY AND LYMPHOCYTE CYTOTOXICITY IN EXTRACTS OF AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL PLANT SPECIES

The emergence of new microbial diseases and increasing antibiotic resistance in existing organisms of medical importance makes the discovery of new antimicrobial medicinal agents imperative. Ethanol extracts of leaf and bark materials collected from a variety of plants from



Madeline León, first place winner for Physical Sciences/ Poster division, answers questions about her work for Puerto Rico's AMP Project Director Manuel Gómez.

the tropical rain forests of North Queensland Australia (including members of the families Euphorbiaceae, Lauraceae, Mimosaceae, Burseraceae, Myrtaceae, and others) were tested in vitro for antimicrobial activity against important human pathogens *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus, Enterococcus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Candida albicans* and Mycoplasma. Both disk diffusion and broth microdilution techniques were used to assess the therapeutic potential of the plant materials. Active components of extracts which show promising results will be identified using chromatographic techniques and their structures determined. In addition, cytoxocity of the extracts showing antimicrobial activity for normal lymphocytes and their effect on normal lymphocyte proliferative responses were examined. As model medicinal agents, these results on a highly unique segment of the world's flora can provide a starting point for synthetic modifications aimed at enhancing their potency and therapeutic potential for the treatment of human disease.

Presenter: WALTER J. LECH

Institution: University of California, Los Angeles

Discipline: Biological Sciences **AMP Region**: California

Faculty Mentor: Andrew H. Kaplan, M.D.

Place: 1st Place

GENOTYPIC VARIATION OF HIV-1 PROTEASE: MUTATIONS RELATED TO DRUG RESISTANCE IN UNTREATED PATIENTS

One of the distinguishing features of retroviral biology is the high degree of diversity witnessed among independent strains. In particular, formation of genetic variants of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) result from selective pressures exerted by the immune system and from random errors introduced by the viral reverse transcriptase. In contrast, viral heterogeneity is decreased during selection of those variants that are most efficient at replication. These factors undeniably affect the pathogenesis of HIV infection through generation of variants resisting protease inhibitors, escaping the host immune response and infecting various cell types.

To evaluate the consequences of these factors on the heterogeneity of HIV-1 quasispecies, we characterized the coding domain of p6, the protease, and the V4 region of the envelope from uncultured PBMC s of 14 HIV+ donors receiving no protease inhibitor therapy. Viral burden was measured by quantitative DNA PCR and was found to correlate well with heterogeneity in the envelope region studied, but not with p6 or protease. Most importantly, with the aid of computer modeling, we report the characterization of viral variants with mutations associated with drug resistance, despite the lack of such therapy. We therefore conclude that selective pressures act differentially on the HIV genome and that variants related to drug resistance are preexisting in untreated patients.

The amazing presentation by math professor Art Benjamin— Mathemagics!"

-Undergraduate, New Mexico AMP

Presenter: MADELINE S. LEÓN

Institution: *University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez*

Discipline: Physical Sciences **AMP Region:** Puerto Rico

Faculty Mentor: Prof. José E. Cortés

Place: 1st Place

ORGANOMETALLIC MODELS OF C-H BOND ACTIVATORS

One important general problem in organometallic chemistry is the binding and activation of the small molecules in Nature. This work is about the fundamental events involved in the conversion of CO, CO,

and small alkanes into useful materials by catalytic reactions involving transition metals. Better catalytic materials are necessary to make efficient use of the limited global supply of hydrocarbons. In this work will be presented X-ray structure, spectroscopy evidence, kinetics, and thermodynamic information about the formation of hydrogen-metal and OC-metal bonds. The formations of these bonds are key steps in the catalytic conversion of CO, CO₂, and inert hydrocarbons into reactive and useful organic compounds. The knowledge of the mechanisms of these conversions is necessary to make of hydrocarbons a renewable resource.

Presenter: MIGUEL A. ROSA

Institution: *University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez*

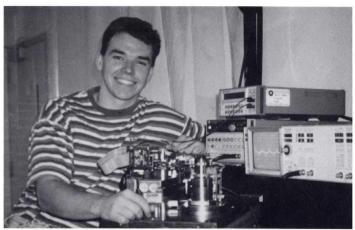
Discipline: Engineering **AMP Region**: Puerto Rico

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Pranab K. Mazumdar

Place: 1st Place

SURFACE ROUGHENING - AN INDICATOR OF FATIGUE DAMAGE AND FAILURE

One of the consequence of the formation of persistent slip bands (PSBs) in fatigue, driven by the irreversible plastic strain that accumulates with cycles, is to produce surface roughness. Since PSBs form continually with cycles until specimen attains its saturation the roughness can be presumed to increase with cycling. This makes *roughening*



Edward Milligan, UC Davis, shown with equipment for "collection of analog read channel data for digital magnetic recording."

(i.e., roughness difference) an issue and as this results in direct response to the damage that prevails locally, what could measure damage tentatively and, subsequently, the failures the roughening that the surface experiences and not the roughness that develops in N cycles. Furthermore, as failure is conceivable from a location suffering maximum roughening, this approach may prove to be a valuable basis by which to assert damage and locate specimen's failure non destructively. This work explores this possibility by conducting relevant fatigue and surface roughness tests on aerospace quality aluminum, and aluminum-lithium alloys.

Presenter: EARL G. STONE

Institution: *University of Texas at San Antonio*

Discipline: Physical Sciences

AMP Region: *University of Texas System* **Faculty Mentor:** *Dr. Stephan Bach*

Place: 2nd Place

FOURIER TRANSFORM INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY MATRIX ISOLATION OF A NITRIC OXIDE WATER COMPLEX

Recently there has been significant interest concerning NO in-vitro. NO is also known as an environmental pollutant. In all of these studies water is a common denominator. A great deal of literature can be found on MI/FTIR analyses of either NO or water, but nothing indicating any reaction complexes of the two and the related physical chemistry. Using the matrix isolation technique coupled with fourier transform infrared spectroscopy evidence has been found of a NO-H₂O complex. The matrix isolation technique was utilized in order to isolate the reaction products so that the complexes IR spectrum could be obtained. The reactants and matrix gas (argon) are co-deposited onto a KCl window which is maintained at approximately 8K. Complex absorptions were observed as shifts from the parent NO and H₂O absorptions. The



Earl Stone, University of Texas, won second place in Physical Sciences.

absorptions from the complex were used to determine the strength of the interaction between the two reactants. The IR absorptions for the complex were observed at approximately 3608 cm⁻¹ for the OH stretch, and approximately 1833 cm⁻¹ for the complex NO stretch. In addition to the experimental work, ab-initio calculations have been performed to determine a reasonable structure that agrees with the observed spectra.

"Being able to meet scientists working in the field was thrilling and encouraging."

-Presenter, Alabama AMP

Presenter: OTHNIEL WILLIAMS
Institution: The City College of New York
Discipline: Math/Computer Science

AMP Region: New York City

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Yiannis Andrepoulos

Place: 2nd Place

AERODYNAMICS OF A SKI JUMPER

Aerodynamic effects are critical to good ski jump performances. It is observed that, the angle of the ski jumper relative to the skis, the angle of the skis relative to each other and the angle of the skis relative to the air's velocity. These angles play a remarkable role on the distance of the jump. I am investigating the positive effects of these angles on the lift and drag forces acting on the ski jumper. The lift and drag forces on the ski jumper are evaluated for various combinations of these angles, to determine which angles that will give the longest jump distance. Finite element analysis is used to determine the velocity and pressure distribution around the body of a typical ski jumper. These values are then integrated to determine the lift and drag forces acting on the jumper.

ARC '95: Convening the Brightest Minds of the National Alliances

Selection Process

Four students from each AMP, two oral presenters and two poster presenters, were selected to compete at ARC. Students must have submitted their ARC preliminary applications to their local AMP office by May 1, 1995; each AMP selected their top four students. Joint student projects were not eligible. As space allowed, additional students attended. Students had to be prepared for questions from judges and other attendees. Undergraduates entered posters or oral presentations in the following categories: biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematics and computer science, and engineering.

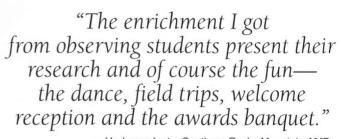
CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE



Deborah Apodaca



Jacquelyn Collins



-Undergraduate, Southern Rocky Mountain AMP



Sharlene Heyward

Right is Sandra Gonzalez receiving her certificate from Dr. Roosevelt Calbert.



Vladimir Sierra



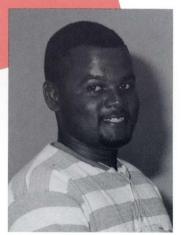
Earl Stone



Kevin Thigpen



David Vargas



Othniel Williams

FACULTY ABSTRACTS



DR. MELVIN H. GREEN

Department of Biology University of California, San Diego

FROM MOLECULAR BIOLOGY TO MOLECULAR MEDICINE: HOW I AVOIDED BECOMING A SPECIALIST AND LEARNED TO LOVE THE LAB.

What is molecular biology? How does one decide to become a molecular biologist, and then how does one go on to become one? How has this field changed during the past forty years? What have you accomplished during your career as a molecular biologist? Although my answers to these frequently asked questions may at first seem restricted to one narrow field of science, I hope you will find them of value during this time when you are considering a career in research, regardless of your area of specialization.

DR. ANTONIO A. GARCIA

Chemical, Bio & Materials Engineering Arizona State University

SCANNING PROBE MICROSCOPY AS A TOOL FOR STUDYING BIOPOLYMER SELF-ASSEMBLY

Structural biopolymers play important roles in organisms when, through a series of chemical interactions, they create assemblies. Learning the relationship between molecular and assembly structure is important in order to engineer biopolymers with specific performance characteristics. A type of scanning probe microscopy, Tapping Mode Atomic Force Microscopy (TM-AFM), allows for the study of molecules and assemblies under near-native conditions.

This presentation will illustrate the power of TM-AFM for studying beta-glucans (structural polysaccharides which can be found in yeast cell walls) and collagen (a structural protein found in all higher animals). Beta-glucan images show that highly branched glucans can form tree-like networks while unbranched glucans form long strand bundles. A commercially produced collagen is shown to assemble into amorphous mats at neutral pH. The mat porosity depends on the size-distribution of individual collagen molecules. TM-AFM techniques and computational and image analysis tools used in these studies will be discussed during this presentation.

Photos clockwise from top left: Melvin Green, Michael Howell, Andrew Roberts, Antonio Garcia.

DR. MICHAEL W. HOWELL

Marine Science Program University of South Carolina, Columbia

DR. ANDREW ROBERTS

Department of Geology University of California, Davis

OCEAN DRILLING PROGRAM LEG 160: UNCOVERING THE HISTORY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Ocean Drilling Program leg 160 cruise took place from March to May of 1995 and focused on the tectonic and paleoceanographic history of the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Approximately 7 km of deep-sea cores were collected form 10 sites in order to investigate various geological phenomena including regional collision processes, mud volcanism and the origin of organic-rich sapropel deposits.

This presentation will mainly focus on the cruise objectives related to the paloceanographic and paleoclimatic events associated with the Mediterranean sapropels. Current theories of sapropel formation, various analytical techniques and ongoing post-cruise research on these unusual deep-sea deposits will be discussed. In addition, an overview of the National Science Foundation's Ocean Drilling Program will be presented.









JUDGES



From the right: the Mathemagician, Dr. Arthur Benjamin; Diane Crabtree; Dr. Antonio Garcia; Judy Gobert.



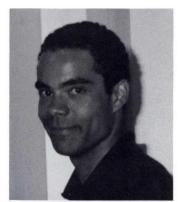


From left, Barry Goldman, Arnold Guerra. Far right, Dr. Robert Andrews, left in photo, is congratulated by Alan Thornhill (soon-to-be "Dr. Alan Thornhill") for his service as a judge.



Dr. Kenneth Millett

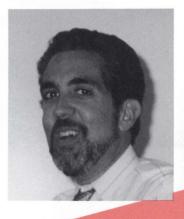
Dr. J. Keith Oddson



Ryan Mitchell



Dr. James Shackelford





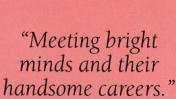


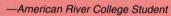






Said Shokair







Moisés Torres

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DR. ANTONIO GARCIA Arizona State University (ENG)

JUDY GOBERT Salish Kootenai College (M/CS)

BARRY GOLDMAN Lawrence Livermore National Lab (BS)

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LARRY LIM University of Southern California (ENG)

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DR. JAMIL MOMAND City of Hope National Medical Center (BS)

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DEREK DUNN-RANKIN University of California, Irvine (ENG)

DR. ANDREW ROBERTS University of California, Davis (PS)

DR. JAMES SHACKELFORD University of California, Davis (ENG)

SAID SHOKAIR University of California, Irvine (ENG)

ROBERT SIMONS University of California, Los Angeles (BS)

MOISÉS TORRES University of California, Irvine (M/CS)

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Mr. Ed Milligan





Dr. Carlton Bovell, Regional Director, UC Riverside, brought a cohort of science-minded high school students for an exciting university experience.

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Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld

Ms. Susie Forbath

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Mr. Jose Lemus

-Undergraduate, Chicago AMP

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Ms. Maria Martinez

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Mr. Enrique Rodriguez

Ms. Silvia Palacios

Mr. Efrain Ramos

Mr. Carlos Melgar

Ms. Rene Lloyd

"I enjoyed the opportunity

to hear presentations about

recent research. I also

enjoyed networking with

other AMP members and

learning about how other

programs operate."

Ms. Adriana Rubalcaba Ms. Lakrecia Sanders

Ms. Renee Seale Mr. Silvestre Zamudio

University of California, San Diego

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