

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

Congratulations 2023 Koret Undergraduate Research Scholars

Alina Aguilar

Mentor: Andrew Skemer

Project: SCALES diffraction grating design project for Keck Observatory

Major: Physics (Astrophysics)

College: Stevenson

Maxine Altura

Mentor: Mark Amengual

Project: Cross-linguistic influence in Tagalog-English bilingual speech

Major: Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism

College: Nine

Donovan Baker

Mentor: Melissa Jurica

Project: Determining required factors for intron recognition by U2 snRNP

Major: Neuroscience

College: Stevenson

Megumi Barata

Mentor: Martha Zúñiga

Project: How do autoreactive T cells escape the Grim Reaper?

Major: Human Biology

College: Rachel Carson

Kora Cadle

Mentor: Rut Molinuevo

Project: Investigating endoreplication in human endometrial cells and its effects on endometriosis

Major: Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology

College: John R. Lewis

Jaxon Chester

Mentor: Alan Christy

Project: Chanpuru: An exploration of contemporary Okinawan & Hawaiian material cultures

Major: Film and Digital Media and Global Economics

College: Porter

Tasha Cohen

Mentor: Kristina Chew

Project: Potions and distortions: Who were the witches of ancient Rome?

Major: Anthropology and Classical Studies

College: Rachel Carson

Samantha Contreras

Mentor: David Lederman

Project: Magnonics for THz applications

Major: Physics

College: Porter

Atirath Dhara

Mentor: Ryan Foley

Project: Investigating the hypo-luminous supernova 2008ha

Major: Physics

College: Cowell

Karina Diaz Alvarez

Mentor: Emily Hentschke

Project: Breaking the silence: Investigating food insecurity for immigrant communities

Major: Psychology and Legal Studies

College: Oakes

Rebeca Diaz-Perez

Mentor: Jennifer Parker

Project: "We Triumph" mural proposal

Major: Art

College: Kresge

Valeria Galindo-Eguiarte

Mentor: Susan Pit

Project: The effect of alkalinity on subsurface carbon cycling in Elkhorn Slough

Major: Earth Sciences

College: College Nine

Andrea Galvez

Mentors: Chris Vollmers, Alex Zee, Kayla Schimke, Matthew Adams, Dori Deng

Project: Optimizing the R2C2 protocol for the sequencing of mammalian cDNA

Major: Biomolecular Engineering & Bioinformatics

College: Stevenson

Valerie Garcia

Mentor: Rebecca London, Xiomara Lopez, María Dolores Castillo

Project: Whose HSI?: A Look into the undergraduate Latinx/e/a/o and Chicax/e/a/o student experience at the University of California, Santa Cruz

Major: Sociology

College: Merrill

Ann Gobei-Bacaylan

Mentor: Frankie Gerraty

Project: Coastal connections: Assessing vertebrate scavenger assemblages across an urbanization gradient

Major: Ecology & Evolution

College: Rachel Carson

Ben Goldstein

Mentor: Kat Gutierrez

Project: Sowing seeds: Filipino American stories from the Pajaro Valley

Major: Film & Digital Media and Literature

College: Porter

Spencer Greene

Mentor: Emily Sinclair

Project: Lost passion - a bachelor's of music recital

Major: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Music

College: Porter

Maryke Grobler

Mentor: Needhi Bhalla

Project: In *C. elegans*, does PCH-2 inhibit early double-stranded breaks from becoming crossovers?

Major: Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology

College: Oakes

Sawyer Hall

Mentor: Joshua Krissansen-Totton

Project: Constraining background N₂ atmospheric inventories of exoplanets to distinguish biotic O₂

Major: Astrophysics and Computational Math

College: Cowell

Emily Hallam

Mentor: Craig Fellers, Hannah Hausman

Project: Offloading illusions: Unravelling beliefs about note-taking

Major: Psychology

College: Kresge

Nathan Ho

Mentor: Michael Stone

Project: Bulk in vitro expression of the three-way junction of RNA from human telomerase for cyclic peptide screening

Major: Chemistry with a biochemistry concentration

College: Kresge

Mel Jones

Mentor: Shaun McKinnie

Project: Directed evolution of cyclase dsKabC: Transforming a glutamate receptor agonist producing enzyme into an antagonist producer

Major: Chemistry with a biochemistry concentration

College: Oakes

Elina Juvonen

Mentor: Megan Moodie

Project: Family and foreign: Investigating representation and contradiction in 1950's women's magazines

Major: History and Anthropology

College: Stevenson

Kasey La

Mentor: Liv Hoversten

Project: What was my error? Online processing of speech disfluency by foreign-accented speakers

Major: Cognitive Science and Linguistics

College: Merrill

Nancy Lau

Mentor: Alvaro Cardenas

Project: Security of embedded vehicle access system software implementations

Major: Computer Engineering

College: Crown

Yitong Lei

Mentor: Noriko Aso

Project: Imaging of Chinatown: Dreams, futures, and changing racializations of 唐人街

Major: Critical Race & Ethnic Studies

College: John R. Lewis

Sadira L. Lewis

Mentor: Jess H.K. Law

Project: Ambiguity in adjectival modification of -er nominals: An experimental approach

Major: Linguistics

College: Merrill

Nathan Ling

Mentor: John Morgan

Project: Disease and development: Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) response to ongoing threats in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Major: Environmental Studies

College: Cowell

Zoë Hruby Linstrom

Mentor: Dee Hibbert-Jones, Sean Monaghan

Project: Deities of pollution

Major: Art

College: Porter

Rae Mancuso

Mentor: Peter Raimondi

Project: The ongoing recovery of *Heliaster kubiniji* following a disease and subsequent mass mortality event

Major: Art and Marine Biology

College: Porter

Emmett Marks-Froot

Mentor: Martin Devecka

Project: The evolution of magical names in classical antiquity

Major: Philosophy and Classical Studies

College: Porter

Julian Martinov

Mentor: Peter Rothman

Project: Decentralized information verification

Major: Computer Science

College: Crown

Shivani Modha

Mentor: Steven McKay

Project: We Belong-Perteneecemos: Institutions of belonging vs. not belonging in mixed status communities

Major: Sociology and Philosophy

College: Cowell

Axel Nateras

Mentor: Angela Brooks

Project: Overexpression vs. endogenous expression

Major: Human Biology

College: Cowell

Sabrina Nguyen

Mentor: Kristina Chew

Project: Roman conceptions of Jewish people

Major: Classical Studies

College: Cowell

Ivette Orozco Sanchez

Mentor: Zac Zimmer

Project: Tijuana, transformations of a city

Major: Spanish Studies and Literature

College: Merrill

Remington Plischke

Mentor: Laurel Fox

Project: Oak response to stress: water-use efficiency and community interactions on a scale of lichen overgrowth

Major: Ecology & Evolution

College: Cowell

Natalia Rivera

Mentor: Sean Keilen

Project: Human suffering through eyes of Buddha and Shakespeare

Major: Literature

College: Cowell

Damiana Rojas

Mentor: Greg Gilbert

Project: The response of *Botrytis cinerea* to fire in the coast redwood forest

Major: Environmental Studies

College: Oakes

Isabelle Maru Shapiro

Mentor: Phoebe Lam

Project: Inorganic carbon in the remote South Pacific and the California Coast

Major: Environmental Sciences

College: Merrill

Rakshya Sharma

Mentor: Angela Brooks

Project: Identifying RNA splicing patterns in cancer using MESA

Major: Computer Science

College: Nine

Sara Sotelo

Mentor: Michael Chemers

Project: UNIBeauty and her wicked daughters: A complete dramaturgy

Major: Education, Democracy, & Justice

College: Merrill

Damien Stoffel

Mentor: Juan Poblete

Project: Attention and autonomy in the information age

Major: Literature

College: Porter

Iakov Taranenko

Mentor: Alvaro Cardenas

Project: Security of software implementations in embedded vehicle access systems

Major: Computer Engineering

College: Cowell

Lucas Tilley

Mentor: Kent Eaton

Project: Informal mining in the Orinoco Basin: Indios, selva y soldados

Major: Politics

College: Kresge

Zia Truong

Mentors: David Haussler, Yohei Rosen

Project: Modeling of pH in a cell culture system

Major: Biomolecular Engineering

College: Nine

Dylan Waste

Mentors: Kent Eaton, Kristy Golubiewski-Davis

Project: Disinformation and deception: Measuring Russian operations in the Latin American information environment

Major: Politics

College: John R. Lewis

Noelle Yaitanes

Mentor: Carrie Partch

Project: Investigating the role of kinase tails in the regulation of circadian rhythms

Major: Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

College: Porter

Michela Yang

Mentor: Yuk Shing Lam

Project: Use and access of mental health resources among college students

Major: Psychology

College: Cowell

Jaiden Zak

Mentor: Will Steinhardt

Project: The effect of contact area distribution on the frictional properties of a modeled fault

Major: Earth Sciences

College: Stevenson

Austin Zaman

Mentor: Oskar Elek

Project: 3D visualization of polyphy

Major: Computer Science

College: John R. Lewis

Joe Zheng

Mentor: Micheal Loik

Project: Living solar panel (temperature project)

Major: Molecular, Cellular, Development Biology

College: Rachel Carson