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-Eguarte  
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 Chicxanx/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 McKinzie 
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yitong Lei</td>
<td>Mentor: Noriko Aso</td>
<td>Project: Imaging of Chinatown: Dreams, futures, and changing racializations of 唐人街</td>
<td>Major: Critical Race &amp; Ethnic Studies</td>
<td>College: John R. Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nathan Ling</td>
<td>Mentor: John Morgan</td>
<td>Project: Disease and development: Bobcat (Lynx rufus) response to ongoing threats in the Santa Cruz Mountains</td>
<td>Major: Environmental Studies</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe Hruby Linstrom</td>
<td>Mentor: Dee Hibbert-Jones, Sean Monaghan</td>
<td>Project: Deities of pollution</td>
<td>Major: Art</td>
<td>College: Merrill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rae Mancuso</td>
<td>Mentor: Peter Raimondi</td>
<td>Project: The ongoing recovery of Helicaster kubiniji following a disease and subsequent mass mortality event</td>
<td>Major: Art and Marine Biology</td>
<td>College: Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Martinov</td>
<td>Mentor: Peter Rothman</td>
<td>Project: Decentralized information verification</td>
<td>Major: Computer Science</td>
<td>College: Crown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shivani Modha</td>
<td>Mentor: Steven McKay</td>
<td>Project: We Belong-Pertenecemos: Institutions of belonging vs. not belonging in mixed status communities</td>
<td>Major: Sociology and Philosophy</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Axel Nateras</td>
<td>Mentor: Angela Brooks</td>
<td>Project: Overexpression vs. endogenous expression</td>
<td>Major: Human Biology</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina Nguyen</td>
<td>Mentor: Kristina Chew</td>
<td>Project: Roman conceptions of Jewish people</td>
<td>Major: Classical Studies</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivette Orozco Sanchez</td>
<td>Mentor: Zac Zimmerer</td>
<td>Project: Tijuana, transformations of a city</td>
<td>Major: Spanish Studies and Literature</td>
<td>College: Merrill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remington Plischke</td>
<td>Mentor: Laurel Fox</td>
<td>Project: Oak response to stress: water-use efficiency and community interactions on a scale of lichen overgrowth</td>
<td>Major: Ecology &amp; Evolution</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natalia Rivera</td>
<td>Mentor: Sean Keilen</td>
<td>Project: Human suffering through eyes of Buddha and Shakespeare</td>
<td>Major: Literature</td>
<td>College: Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damiana Rojas</td>
<td>Greg Gilbert</td>
<td>The response of <em>Botrytis cinerea</em> to fire in the coast redwood forest</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>Oakes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isabelle Maru Shapiro</td>
<td>Phoebe Lam</td>
<td>Inorganic carbon in the remote South Pacific and the California Coast</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
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<td>Raksha Sharma</td>
<td>Angela Brooks</td>
<td>Identifying RNA splicing patterns in cancer using MESA</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Nine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Sotelo</td>
<td>Michael Chemers</td>
<td>UNIBeauty and her wicked daughters: A complete dramaturgy</td>
<td>Education, Democracy, &amp; Justice</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Damien Stoffel</td>
<td>Juan Poblete</td>
<td>Attention and autonomy in the information age</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iakov Taranenko</td>
<td>Alvaro Cardenas</td>
<td>Security of software implementations in embedded vehicle access systems</td>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucas Tilley</td>
<td>Kent Eaton</td>
<td>Informal mining in the Orinoco Basin: Indios, selva y soldados</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Kresge</td>
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<td>Zia Truong</td>
<td>David Haussler, Yohei Rosen</td>
<td>Modeling of pH in a cell culture system</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Nine</td>
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<td>Dylan Waste</td>
<td>Kent Eaton, Kristy Golubiewski-Davis</td>
<td>Disinformation and deception: Measuring Russian operations in the Latin American information environment</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>John R. Lewis</td>
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<td>Noelle Yaitanes</td>
<td>Carrie Partch</td>
<td>Investigating the role of kinase tails in the regulation of circadian rhythms</td>
<td>Biochemistry &amp; Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Porter</td>
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<td>Michela Yang</td>
<td>Yuk Shing Lam</td>
<td>Use and access of mental health resources among college students</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Cowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaiden Zak</td>
<td>Will Steinhardt</td>
<td>The effect of contact area distribution on the frictional properties of a modeled fault</td>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>Stevenson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin Zaman</td>
<td>Oskar Elek</td>
<td>3D visualization of polyphy</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>John R. Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Zheng</td>
<td>Micheal Loik</td>
<td>Living solar panel (temperature project)</td>
<td>Molecular, Cellular, Development Biology</td>
<td>Rachel Carson</td>
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