

Another Great Year for OSR's "Meeting of the Minds" Symposium!

On Thursday, May 21st, the Office of Student Research (OSR) hosted its 4th annual "Meeting of the Minds" Student Research Symposium. For the past three years, OSR has held a symposium to help showcase the various creative works and academic research done by CSUSB undergraduate and graduate students. The 2015 symposium was OSR's largest yet! The event attendance has continued to increase! Participants enjoyed 188 presentations from all disciplines. Throughout the afternoon, students presented their posters, art, and oral presentations, as their peers, faculty, and staff enjoyed and voted for their favorite presentations.

The symposium's opening ceremony began with opening speeches by CSUSB's President, Tomás D. Morales, and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Director of the Office of Student Research, Dr. Francisca Beer. The program's Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cynthia Crawford, followed with a presentation on her research entitled *Long-Term Consequences of Early Exposure to Methylphenidate*. CSUSB Student Research Competition students were then recognized for their outstanding performances representing CSUSB at the 29th Annual CSU Student Research Competition. Finally, the music department took center stage and performed excerpts of *La Curandera*.

This year, the OSR had its first Student Honoree presenter, Jason Alipio, introduced by Dr. Sergio Iniguez, who has supported Alipio throughout his academic career. Alipio took first place at the 29th Annual CSU Student Research Competition and was selected to represent CSUSB at this year's "Posters on a Hill" in Washington, D.C. for the presentation of his research entitled *Memory Related Side Effects of Adolescent Prozac Exposure*.

During the lunch, guest speaker Dr. Vincent Racaniello, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Columbia University, also held a podcast entitled *This Week in Virology* during the lunch hour, which was followed by Gerald M. Scherba's lecture, *Communicating Science*.

As the symposium came to a close, guests were invited to an open dinner reception. During the reception, students and faculty listened to original poetry performed by families in the community as part of the Student and Coyotes: Instruction in Poetry and Prose (SCIPP) program, a volunteer mentoring program that pairs CSUSB Creative Writing MFA and undergraduate students with students from Salinas Elementary School. The night concluded with the announcement of the Best Graduate and Undergraduate Poster and Oral Presentation awards. The OSR would like to congratulate the 2015 Winners:

Best Graduate Poster Presentation: Alicia Davis

Best Graduate Oral Presentation: Francisco Flores Ramirez

Best Undergraduate Poster Presentation: Amber Castro

Best Undergraduate Oral Presentation: Bryan Cruz