

|| Sections ||

Front Page
News
Opinions
Sports
Go Wild
Live Culture
Police Beat
Datebook
Comics
Crossword
Special Sections
Photo
Spreads
Classifieds

|| The Wildcat ||

Letter to the Editor
Wildcat Staff
Search
Archives
Job Openings
Advertising
Info

|| Student Media ||

Arizona Student Media Info
UATV - Student TV
KAMP - Student Radio
The Desert Yearbook
Daily Wildcat
Staff Alumni

CAMPUS NEWS

Conference showcases undergrad bio research

By **Nick Smith**
Arizona Daily Wildcat
Monday, January 23, 2006
Print this

The science fair, a time-honored tradition of brainy show-and-tell, is not only for the grade school set.

Instead of potato-powered light bulbs and model volcanoes, entries in the 17th Annual Undergraduate Biology Research Program Conference ranged from the effects of cancer drugs on bodily enzymes to a study of T-cells in sharks.

Saturday's conference featured more than 85 students presenting the results of their months-long bio-research projects to friends, family and science enthusiasts.

Each of the students' 3-by-5-foot posters were decorated with pictures, data graphs and conclusions from their findings.

"It's really quite exciting, because you find out what the students have been doing all year," said Carol Bender, director of the UBRP. "The reason this is important is it gives the students an opportunity to talk about what they did."

One of the challenges the students face at the conference is not presenting the research itself, but having to explain it to people from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Roman Covarrubias, a senior studying biochemistry and molecular biophysics, said he needed to make the explanation of his project user-friendly so his audience could understand his findings.

"I have more fun trying to explain it to people," said Covarrubias. "It makes me try harder."

Covarrubias' research centered on the role of T-cells, which identify foreign bodily objects in sharks. He began his research in June, working 40 hours a week, and balanced classes with a 10-hour work week in the fall semester.

The UBRP gives students the unique opportunity to work in a team for a professor in a field they are interested in, as well as sharing publication credit,



Jake Lacey/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Molecular and cellular biology senior Charles Martinez III presents his research, titled "Fishing For Parasites," to molecular and cellular biology senior Andrea Aguirre.

|| Articles ||

Retention Shelton's first priority
Official: Student interest high in ASUA elections
\$20 student union fee proposed
Quick hits
Campus eyes on Campbell
Kolbe encourages fight against AIDS
UA support strong at frisbee game

Conference showcases undergrad bio research

Fast Facts

Police Beat

Datebook



Search for: go
Advanced options
Browse archives

said Michael Wells, a biochemistry and molecular biology regent professor emeritus.

"In the 17 years the conference has happened, more than 600 students have received publication," Wells said.

Not all the students presenting were undergraduates, however.

Veronica Shi, a junior from Corona del Sol High School in Tempe, presented her proposal for a survey to study a phenomenon called contrast illusion. The forthcoming study would measure brain activity on the perceptions of the color grey when it is viewed on differently colored backgrounds.

Shi said it would be simpler to explain her project to people with a background in optics because they would already have an understanding of the basic concepts.

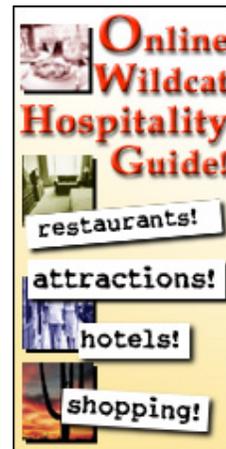
"If I were talking to a visual scientist, it would be easier," Shi said. "(Otherwise) you'd have to explain everything so you'd understand."

Other students used humor to get their points across.

"I remember squamous (cells) because you 'squam' when you take them out," said Jennifer Avila, recounting a joke her father told her to a group of onlookers.

Avila, a molecular and cellular biology junior, researched the effect two different cancer drugs have on each other.

Write a [Letter to the Editor](#)



Sponsored links

[Your link here?](#)

[Health Insurance](#)

[Quotes](#)

[World Cup Tickets](#)

[Payday Loans](#)

[Tucson Arizona](#)

[Events](#)

[Si-Mexico Hotels](#)

[Resorts](#)

[Auto Insurance](#)

[Quotes](#)

[Online Slots](#)

[Online Casino](#)

[Cheap Airline](#)

[Tickets](#)

[Cheap Flights](#)

[Mortgage](#)

[Car Insurance](#)

[Free Insurance](#)

[Quote](#)

[Online Japan](#)

[Casinos](#)

[Finest Wine](#)

[Silent Ionic Air](#)

[Purifiers](#)

[Platinum Wedding](#)

[Rings](#)

Ads by Goooooogle

Marine Biology for Teens

Learn Marine Biology and more this summer on a live-aboard yacht.
www.seatrekbvi.com

School Science Experiment

Huge stock of Science Kits at low prices. Visit HobbyTron!
ScienceKits.HobbyTron.c

Paid 2006 Internships

Database of Paid Internships in US. Register Early Avoid Disappointment
PaidInterns.com

Awesome Teen Adventures

Scuba Diving, Sailing, Exploration Caribbean Summer Camp Programs
www.OdysseyExpeditions

[NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [OPINIONS](#) | [GO WILD](#)
[CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [ARCHIVES](#) | [CONTACT US](#) | [SEARCH](#)



Sponsored links

Von Dutch
IamBigBrother Software
Phony Diplomas
Cheap Airline Tickets
e-harmony
Business school and MBA
SK Hand Tools

Health Insurance
Engagement Rings
Government Grants
Christening Gowns
Phoenix Web Design
Air Purifiers
Car donation - donate a car

VOIP
Auto Insurance
Cheap Car Insurance Qoutes
Paintball
Travel Insurance
Arizona Health Insurance

Webmaster - webmaster@wildcat.arizona.edu

© Copyright 2005 - *The Arizona Daily Wildcat* - Arizona Student Media