

News Release

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October 2, 2006

UVI Announces Fall Science Symposium Winners

Three UVI students, Gaetan Gentius, Fitzherbert Harry and Alexia Mintos, have been selected as the presenters of the top three posters in UVI's Fall 2006 Undergraduate Research Symposium. The symposium, held on Sept. 24, showcased the research projects conducted by some 20 young UVI scholars.

Gentius is a junior biology major. The title of his poster presentation was "How Gradient of Human Impacted



Alexia Mintos



Fitzherbert Harry



Gaetan Gentius

Watersheds Affects Coral Reef Algal Population and Dynamics. Gentius is mentored at UVI by Dr. Tyler B. Smith a coral reef researchers with UVI's Center for Marine & Environmental Studies.

Another junior biology major, Harry won recognition for his poster titled "Red form of *Echinometra lucunter* shelter from sunlight more than other color forms." Harry's mentor is UVI professor of marine biology Dr. Stephen Ratchford.

Mathematics major Alexia Mintos, a senior, conducted her research under the mentorship of Dr. Jelena Kovacevic at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, Pa. Her poster was titled "Combining Wavelet Features with PCA for Classification of Protein Images.

The students' presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges. These winners have earned trips to national conferences in their fields.

UVI student research is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation's HBCU-UP Program and VI-EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), and the MARC Program of the National Institutes of Health. General support is also provided by

UVI's Division of Science and Mathematics. For more information, call 693-1232.

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