



Emerging Caribbean Scientists Programs

May 15, 2008

Spring 2008 Research Symposium Winners Announced

The University of the Virgin Islands Science and Mathematics Division and the Emerging Caribbean Scientists Program is proud to announce the winners of the Spring Research Symposium that was held on March 15, 2008 on the St. Croix Campus.

Biology Major, Ali Kareem won best poster award for his research on bread fruit leaves and their affect on hypertension. The title of his poster was *Antihypertensive Metabolites from Atrocarpus attilis (Breadfruit)*. He is a RISE student and conducted his research at the UVI's chemistry lab.

Chemistry majors, Ophelia Wadsworth and Digna Washington tied for second place.

Ophelia Wadsworth's poster was entitled, *Antimicrotubule Metabolites from Ircinia strobilina and other Virgin Islands Sponges*. Ms. Wadsworth is a junior and MARC Research Trainee. She will be attending the SROP program at Boston University this summer.

Digna Washington, a senior, presented her poster entitled *Cytotoxic metabolites from Pseudocerintina crassa*. Digna Washington is a MARC Research Trainee. She will attend graduate school at Rutgers University .

All three students share the same mentor, Dr. Omar Christian, a UVI Assistant Chemistry Professor.

The student's presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges. There were 31 entries.

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

Thanks to all the Participants for making this a productive and successful conference.

The winners of both the Fall and Spring Research Symposiums received certificates at the UVI's Spring Academic Awards Ceremony. To learn more about the students' research, visit <http://ecs.uvi.edu/> and click on ECS Student Research Symposia.