

A blue ribbon graphic with a folded end on the right side, containing white text.

Texas Academy of
Science Graduate
Student Oral Paper
Competition

3rd Place \$100

John Moretti

The University of Texas at Austin

Archaeological remains of the thick-billed parrot
(*Rhynchopsitta pachyrhyncha*) in the American
Southwest: comparative morphology, cultural context,
and Holocene biogeography

2nd Place \$200

Erik Iverson

The University of Texas at Austin

How to get high: positive selection on mitochondrial
genes in high-elevation species

1st Place \$450

Hannah Elam

The University of Texas at Health Science Center
at San Antonio

Orexin receptor antagonists reverse aberrant dopamine
neuron activity and related behaviors in a rodent model
of stress-induced psychosis

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Texas Academy of
Science Student
Research Proposal
Competition

- Began in 1997 by Ned Strenth (San Angelo State) and Don Harper (Texas A&M University Galveston)
- Each donated \$150
- First funded by the TAS Board of Directors in 1999
- By 2004 funding increased to \$6000
- In 2006 funding increased to \$10,000 and differentiated by level of degree sought (undergraduate, Master's, PhD)
- Funding increased to \$13,500 in 2009
- Three awards at each degree level
- 1st place awards of \$2000 each, 2nd place awards of \$1500 each and \$1000 each for 3rd place

History

- 23 proposals received
 - 5 undergraduate
 - 14 M.S.
 - 4 Ph.D.
- Many thanks to the 56 reviewers
 - Several reviewed more than one proposal
 - Several non-academy members served as reviewers



2021 Competition

- Remember,
 - If you win, you obligate yourself to present a paper on the results at next year's meeting, or
 - Submit a document describing progress and request a 1-year extension of the presentation requirement
- Additional rewards
 - Conference registration fees will be waived for the year in which you present the results of your research
 - Winners will receive a one-year membership in the Academy
- And a plea...
 - If you have published, or will publish, a paper funded in part by a TAS grant, please let us know:
joseph.kowalski01@utrgv.edu
 - We list TAS-supported papers on the website and want to continually update the list. Eighteen and counting...



2021 Competition

Lastly, if the award is given to an individual, the US Government will want their cut

- TAS must file a W-9 with the IRS
- This does not apply if the award is given to the student's department or institution

Individual winners will be sent the W-9 form and the check will be awarded when the form is filled out and/or department contact information is given to the treasurer, Thomas Ready



Gratuitous
Fine Print

Undergraduate Level

First Place \$2000

Clint King (Tarleton State University)

“Monitoring the invasive Emerald Ash Borer *Agrilus planipennis* through observation of the predatory wasp *Cerceris fumipennis*”

Second Place \$1500

Glenda Panzieri (Temple College)

“The link between periodontal health and anti-inflammatory diet”

Third Place \$1000

Jessica Hoffman (Austin College)

“Phenotypic analysis of cancer cell lines following PA28 γ removal through CRISPR/Cas9”

MS Level

First Place \$2000

Stephanie Beane (Sam Houston State University)

“The evaluation of COX-2 in vascular dysfunction associated with Colorado Tick Fever virus”

Second Place \$1500

Jacklyn Thompson (Stephen F. Austin State University)

“Gomesin: An antimicrobial-peptide with therapeutic potential”

Third Place \$1000

David Farris (Sam Houston State University)

“Nest box microclimates and incubation behavior: a suburban and rural comparison”

PhD Level

First Place \$2000

Paloma Cuello del Pozo (Texas A&M University)

“Mobility, subsistence, and ancient genetics of past aboriginal Canary Islanders”

Second Place \$1500

Amanda Emert (Texas Tech University)

“Environmental risk assessment and contaminant dispersion modeling of particulate matter emanating from beef cattle feed yards in the Southern High Plains of Texas”

Third Place \$1000

Daniel Guerra (Texas State University)

“Examining habitat use of *Gopherus berlandieri* (Texas Tortoise) in coastal regions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley”