



University of Bridgeport  
Division of Graduate Studies & Research  
Faculty Research Day 2015  
Data Breakdown

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The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Bridgeport Faculty Research Day proved to be the most successful year yet with an amazing 129 posters accepted from 118 individuals and an estimated 200 non-presenting attendees. Posters were submitted in five categories: Undergraduate student, Graduate student, Doctoral Student, Faculty Competitive, and Faculty Non-Competitive. Twenty-nine academic programs were represented in the final poster list, constituting eleven Schools and Colleges. Since its revival as an annual event in 2011, Faculty Research Day has become the premiere academic event on campus, providing a venue at which the diverse array of research undertaken by faculty and assisted by students is showcased. The goal of the event is to foster project collaborations between departments, schools, and colleges as research becomes increasingly interdisciplinary.

With 129 posters across the five categories, submissions increased by an overall total of seven posters compared to the 2014 competition. Forty-four of the submissions were Faculty posters, with 18 of those in the competitive category. The Ernest C. Trefz School of Business represented one third of the Faculty Competitive Posters and yielded one of the four chosen winners. A total of 85 student posters were entered into the competition: 23 doctoral, 39 graduate, and 23 undergraduate. The figures below show the incredible evolution of poster submissions over the last five years.



The diversity of the posters has continued to increase with each year's competition. A surge of participation came from the Trefz School of Business, the College of Public and International Affairs (CPIA), and the collective Health Sciences division including the College of Chiropractic, the College of Naturopathic Medicine, the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, and the Acupuncture Institute. The School of Continuing and Professional Studies participated for the first time this year; their Faculty poster submission marked the incredible milestone of representation from eleven of UB's thirteen Schools and Colleges.

The Doctoral student category was implemented this year to better attract students in the professional programs as well as to separate the more experienced students in the Computer Science and Engineering and Technology Management doctoral programs from their Masters Student counterparts. We saw five doctoral posters from traditionally low-submitting departments in the Health Sciences and the School of Education, two of which were awarded Honorable Mentions. This additional category has raised the bar for even higher quality of work by the doctoral and professional-program students and it proved to be a very tight competition. Graduate student participation remains steadfast and strong, with increased submissions in non-empirically based research projects in the Social Sciences.

Undergraduate students boosted their submission numbers by 53% compared to last year's count. The majority of these students were mentored within the School of Arts & Science (A&S) Biology department, however submissions from Psychology, Counseling, Computer Science and Engineering, Interior Design, and World Religion & Politics were also represented. The vast assortment of the disciplines of our young investigators shows UB's unwavering commitment to progressing as research intensive institution.

The figures below illustrate the growing diversity of research across UB's Schools and Colleges.



Student posters were judged by volunteer UB Faculty and local industry members. Five highly regarded scholars and field experts were invited to judge the eighteen faculty competitive posters. These exceptional community members represented fellow universities in the region, as well as the Bridgeport Hospital.

The four Faculty Posters Winners reflected the diverse submissions: **Ashish Aphale, Ph.D.**, Adjunct Professor of Computer Science and Engineering presented his research on “*Graphene based Nanocomposite Electrodes for Energy Storage in Supercapacitors.*” Dr. Aphale is an alumnus of the UB Computer Science and Engineering Doctoral program. **Stergios Bibis, Ph.D.**, Professor of Biology was awarded for his project entitled “*Enzymatic Characterization of Leishmania major Phosphatidylethanolamine Methyltransferases LmjPEM1 and LmjPEM2*”; **Michael Lohle, Ph.D.**, Professor of Information Technology in the Ernest C. Trefz School of Business delivered an afternoon poster talk on his winning poster “*Real Projects, Virtual Worlds: Coworkers, Their Avatars and the Trust Conundrum*”; and **Xiguo (Michael) Xiong, Ph.D.**, Professor of Electrical Engineering was also awarded for his research on “*Automatic BioMEMS Smart Drug Delivery System.*” These four winners were selected from the eighteen faculty competitive posters, in what was undisputedly the most rigorous competition yet.