

***The Office of Graduate and
International Student Life
Presents***



April 14th, 2026

Alumni Lounge, Bartels Hall

Time: 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

University of
New Haven



Introduction

The Office of Graduate & International Student Life is, once again, proud to host the Graduate Student Showcase, during Graduate Appreciation Week. This year we have a diverse representation different competing projects displayed!

Graduate students were able to submit a poster in one of three categories: PhD Research, Master's Research & Internship, Graduate Experiential, and Graduate/Research/Teaching Assistant. We are delighted to host students representing all five of the university's colleges.

While the showcase is a competitive event, our primary focus is the students' demonstration of their love to learn, develop skills, and to confidently present their work. As you walk through the aisles today, please speak with our competitors about their projects and what inspired them.

D-R = Ph.D. Research

M-R = Master's Research

G-A = Master's Internship & Graduate Experiential & Graduate/Teaching/Research Assistant

Running Order

3:30 pm

Welcome Remarks

4:00 pm

Judging of Students Posters

5:15 pm

Awards

5:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Welcome Remarks

*from Greg Overend
& Kim Kanor*

It is our pleasure to present this year's outstanding projects and to celebrate the hard work, innovation, and dedication of our graduate students. This event has been a longstanding tradition at the University of New Haven, and we are excited to continue that tradition with another strong cohort of presenters.

This year, we are proud to have a diverse group of students participating across a range of disciplines, showcasing work that reflects both academic excellence and real-world impact.

The Graduate Student Showcase is designed to highlight the exceptional work our students are doing —whether through research, internships, assistantships, or other experiential learning opportunities. It also serves as a platform to share ideas, foster collaboration, and inspire continued engagement in scholarly and professional development.

We would like to thank our faculty and staff judges for their time and expertise, as well as everyone who contributed to making this event possible.

Judges



We extend our sincere thanks to our faculty and staff judges for their time and expertise in evaluating presentations at today's Graduate Student Showcase.

All participants will receive a certificate of participation, and winners in each category will be awarded a special certificate in recognition of their achievements.

Project Categories

All students will compete within their own college for the listed categories:

D-R = Ph.D. Research

M-R = Master's Research

G-A = Master's Internship &

Graduate Experiential &

Graduate/Teaching/Research

Assistant.

Student Presenters:

College of Arts and Sciences

- 1) M-R Akanksha Shenoy:** “Combinatorial therapy of Folic Acid (Vitamin B9) and Cisplatin (Chemotherapy drug): Comparing Synergistic Effects Across Cancer Types”
- 2) M-R Maxwell Swift:** “Domestic Violence Support for Gender Minority Folks: Was it Helpful?”
- 3) M-R Semire Erkuygur:** “A Needs Assessment Project for a University of New Haven Community Health Clinic”
- 4) G-A Robyn Moran:** “Exploring Multi-Level Contextual Predictors of Sustained Trauma Sensitive Classrooms Implementation: A Study Protocol”
- 5) M-R Sarah Piette:** “Isolation and Characterization of PET-Degrading Bacteria from Fundulus Gut Microbiomes”
- 6) M-R Rahil Balu:** “Integrative In-Silico Profiling of POLB and MBD4 Mutations Underlying Base Excision Repair Defects in Cancer”

Student Presenters:

College of Arts and Sciences

7) M-R Dhara Cherukuri: “Preventing *Borrelia burgdorferi* biofilm formation through early antimicrobial intervention”

8) M-R Md Fahim Khan: “Functional Characterization of Exon 2-Deleted DNA Polymerase β Isoform in Oxidative Stress Responses in Neuroblastoma and Neuron-like Cells”

9) M-R Alagu Theivanai Ganesan: “Developmental Galaxolide Exposure Alters Acoustic Startle Behavior in Zebrafish Embryos”

Student Presenters:

Henry C. Lee, College of
Criminal Justice and
Forensic Sciences

1) D-R Nanthieswar Sathian: “Environmental Shocks and Criminal Activity: A Longitudinal Cross-National Study of Disaster-Prone Nations”

2) D-R Haneen Alani: “Designing Out Poverty: Architecture as Social Control in the Regulation of Urban Public Space”

3) M-R Kelly Murphy: “Analyzing the Effects of Time and Temperature on SNP Markers in Fingernails”

Student Presenters:

School of Health Sciences

- 1) G-A Pingfan Mo, Gabriella Gonzalez, Riley Orr, Pingfan Mo, Junhyuk Jeon:** “Cost-Benefit and Implementation Analysis of Low-Cost Particulate Matter Sensors”
- 2) M-R Theophilus Iloegbu:** “Prevalence and Correlates of Poppers Use During Sexual Intercourse Among Sexual Minority Men”
- 3) G-A Priyanka Sonar:** “Engineering a Strategic Upcycling Startup to Optimize Patient Medication Adherence”
- 4) G-A Jamesha Sutania Jamonique Barrett:** “Through Their Lens: A Photovoice Study of Food Access Challenges Among International Graduate Students in the United States”
- 5) G-A Likhitha Gudapati, Sathish Meher Gaikwad:** “Integrated Food Safety and Nutritional Risk Governance in Extreme Environments: A One Health Comparative Framework Across Spaceflight, Humanitarian Systems, and Global Food Supply Chains”
- 6) M-R Charmi Bharatkumar Desai:** “Vaping, Stress, and Self-Image: What Drives E-Cigarette Use in Gay and Bisexual Men?”
- 7) G-A Sai Naimitha Balireddy Gari, Alisha Thapa, Vandana Maurya:** “Leader and Stakeholder Perspectives on Healthcare Responsibility for Addressing Social and Digital Determinants of Health (SD-DOH) in the United States: A Scoping Review and Qualitative Evidence Synthesis”

Student Presenters:

School of Health Sciences

8) G-A Janet Olatayo Osanyintola: “Translating Data into Action: Substance Use Surveillance Informing Targeted Interventions in West Haven, CT.”

9) M-R Fouzia Noor, Reyusha Chalise: “Spiritual/Religious Coping and Disordered Eating among Sexual Minority Men”

Pompea College of Business

1) G-A Angela Joan Xavier, Katelyn Beach, Ousmane Mansare: “Ivy Mind to Market Case Competition - RISE - Building a commercialization strategy for autothermal pyrolysis Technology”

Student Presenters:

Tagliatela College of Engineering

1) D-R Md Aminur Rahman, Ibrahim Tarek, Monica Kaczynski, Coogan Cardella: “Next-Generation Chemically Recyclable Polymers for A Circular Plastic Economy”

2) M-R Hrishabh Mahaju, Aakash Vemula, Aabdul Kamour: “MarketMind: Smart Analytics for Higher-Ed Marketing Decisions”

3) M-R Vittu Ramadasu Darshan, Aldric Pinto, Rohit Shyamnarayan Singh, Hrishabh Mahaju: “Market Minds: Expansion and Refinement of Admissions AI Model for MSAI Admissions”

4) M-R Bhupesh Chand, Mohammadzaid Mohammadsalim Shaikh, Uday Kumar Chinnam: “Response of Steel Girder-Concrete Deck Bridge Under Lateral Impact From Vessel Collisions”

5) M-R Santiago Andres Proano Patino, Faiza Chowdhury, Bethel Wodajo: “Design & Development of a Micro Fluidic Device Using a High -Resolution 3D Resin Printer for Nanoparticle Formulation”

6) M-R Santiago Andres Proano Patino, Chisom Okoro, Michale Cyr: “Acquisition and Processing of EMG Muscle Signals Using a Biosensor for Control of a Prosthetic Hand”

7) D-R Tarek Ibrahim: “Entropy-Driven Design of Depolymerizable Polyolefins from Strained Bridged Bicyclic Monomers”

Student Presenters:

Tagliatela College of Engineering

8) M-R Faiza Chowdhury, Bethel Wodajo, Santiago Proano:

“Structural and Morphological Impact of SiNPs Coating on Feeding Tubes Under Formula Exposure”

9) G-A Samin Mirzaghanbarpour, Francesco R. Spinelli:

“Comparative Evaluation of Pix4Dmapper and Agisoft Metashape for UAS-Based 3D Reconstruction Toward Building Information Modeling (BIM)”

10) M-R Yaw Nimo-Agyare, Ellie Hurdis: “Spectrally-Guided Pseudolabeling for RGB-only Semantic Segmentation of Urban Land Cover”

11) M-R Yogananda Manjunath, Ahmed Omar Salim Adnan:

“Explainable RAG-based Agentic System for Conversational Scams Detection”

12) M-R Riley Downes, Ian Bjelke: “Extraction of PFAS from Passive Solid Air Samples”

13) M-R Ahmed Omar Salim Adnan, Harsha Keladi Ganapathi:

“Onboard Autonomous Parallel Parking”

14) M-R Jordan Ziesse, Raina Prasad, Justin Caron: “The Effects of Volumetric Compression on Cancer Cell Invasion”

15) G-A Bethel Wodajo, Faiza Chowdhury, Santiago Proano:

“Improving Feeding Tube Performance Through Hydrophobic Surface Analysis of Polymers”

Student Presenters:

Tagliatela College of Engineering

- 16) G-A Ishika Dubey, Kishan Sai Saguturu:** “Dynamic Automated Risk Modeling for Archaeological Looting”
- 17) M-R Safi Dapetel Balkissou Wouna, Naga Sai Kolli, Kaitlyn Benes, Devin Fauver, Rohini Parsha:** “Antibiofilm Activity of 3-Hydroxychromone-Based Scaffolds Inspired by a Sortase-Targeting Design.”
- 18) G-A Rudra Virendrakumar Brahmbhatt:** “Data-Driven Analysis and Scenario Modeling of Hurricanes”
- 19) M-R Theodora Teikor Tetteh:** “Leveraging High-Interaction Honey pots as a Proactive Defense Mechanism in Availability Constrained Critical Infrastructure (Electric Grids)”
- 20) M-R Atharva Haridas Sagare, Yash Prashant Kitey:** “Using Clustering Techniques to Detect Attacks on Industrial Control Systems”
- 21) M-R Ernest King Arthur:** “A DNA Inspired Cryptographic Framework for Enterprise Network Security”
- 22) M-R Juan Azaldegui:** “Escutcheon 32D Optimization”
- 23) G-A Shruti Brahma:** “HazSense-Depth: Hazard Detection with Real-World Distance Estimation”

Student Presenters:

Tagliatela College of Engineering

- 24) M-R Hamza Farooq:** “Optimizing Car Wash Service Flow through Discrete-Event Simulation”
- 25) M-R Aidan Stoner:** “Grasp Torque Determination Based on Object Deformation Analysis.”
- 26) G-A Sharmin Jahan Badhan:** “Student Feedback Analysis Using Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Sentiment Analysis”
- 27) G-A Sharmin Jahan Badhan:** “Automated Construction Hazard Recognition and Captioning With Contrastive Language Image Pre-training (CLIP) and Bootstrapping Language Image Pre-training (BLIP) Vision-Language Models (VLMs): Does Prompt Engineering Improve Precision?”
- 28) M-R Jatin Kumar:** “Anisotropic Machinability of Additively Manufactured SS316L”
- 29) M-R Tejasri Kaithalapuram:** “Prolonged Borrelia Burgdorferi Infection: A Driver of Stemness and Chemoresistance Breast Cells”
- 30) M-R Taraka Naga Ganesh, Shruti Brahma:** “Anisotropic Machinability of Additively Manufactured SS316L”

Acknowledgements

The Office of Graduate and International Student Life extends its sincere gratitude to the Graduate Student Council for their generous sponsorship of this event.



We would also like to thank the Graduate Student Showcase Committee and Judges – **Greg Overend, Kim Kanor, Cameron Oden, Hafiz Oyediran, Michelle Fabiani, Mo Cayer, and Reihaneh Samsami** – for their time, dedication, and contributions in making this event possible.