At this year’s event, almost 100 undergraduate students competed for the Science For Life Undergraduate Creativity Awards within either the Sciences or Arts categories or a joint Science/Art Award. Prizes totaling $6,500 were given to the winners of the event. Special thanks to all UF, Furman, and Morehouse students for participating in another successful CASE.

And the winners are...

Annemarie Wolfe
I joined Dr. Mocco’s lab at the beginning of my sophomore year. I was fascinated by the research his lab was doing on strokes. For the past year and a half now, I have been working with the other lab members to study hematopoietic stem cells and their impact in stroke therapy. We hope that our research will help to ameliorate damage sustained after a stroke. I really enjoy spending time in the lab learning new techniques and finding important data.

The Creativity in the Arts and Sciences event was the first time I ever presented my research. I really liked being able to show my poster and explain all of the details of my findings to my peers. I am really excited to present again and look forward to going to the Undergraduate Symposium at the University of North Florida in March. I hope to be able to present many more times as an undergraduate! As for the award from the Creativity event, I am not entirely sure what I would like to use it on yet, but I am looking into using it to fund travel to a conference.

I am majoring in biology, on a pre-professional track. As this is my junior year, I am beginning to really focus on my future plans. My goal is to become a physician and I hope to begin medical school in Fall 2012.
Danny Chang

I am a second year biochemistry and art history major at the University of Florida. I was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to the US at the age of nine. I am dedicated to service, medicine and leadership. I have pursued three medical mission trips: Ayacucho, Peru, Cusco, Peru, and Belmopan, Belize. I am committed to working in the mission field in the future. I am involved as a leader in American Medical Student Association, Center for Leadership and Service, and International Fine Arts and Healing. As for my academic goals, I want to pursue an MD/PhD degree to try to integrate the clinical and research aspects of oncology.

I am currently working in Dr. Weihong Tan in the Department of Chemistry. We focus on ligation chemistry, specifically aptamer (a single stranded DNA molecule that binds to a specific target cell) and its applications to treat cancer. I am now trying to optimize and explore these applications, in hopes to find a novel way to treat cancer. As an HHMI extramural scholar, I am going to the Institut Pasteur-Lille, France to conduct research on peptide ligation and its applications to treating cancer. I want to combine my knowledges gained at Dr. Melnyk's lab focusing on peptides and my currently research focus to expand on the research conducted as a HHMI Science for Life Scholar.

I want to use the award to travel to ACS conference, and other research conferences to get new ideas to better my research project. I want to share my experiences and accomplishments in the research field that was generously supported by the HHMI to better the field of oncology.

Josh Hurwitz

My research is part of an ongoing project in the Stewart Lab to produce smart chitosan nanotubes for targeted drug delivery. I was able to successfully prepare chitosan nanocaps that will be used to ‘cork’ the nanosized test tubes. The long-term goal of this project is cancer therapy, as the main functionality of our nanotubes will be to act as biocompatible delivery vehicles for large molecules. I am honored to receive the CASE Award, and plan to use the money for lab supplies. Outside of research, I am President of the (current National Champion) UF Men’s Ultimate Frisbee team. Academically, I am working towards a B.S. degree in Mathematics, and I intend to apply to medical school this summer.
Kayla Adams

Three years ago, I transferred from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to the University of Florida in search of a well-rounded education. I am now a third-year double major in Sculpture and Linguistics. I have exhibited my sculpture, installation and performance work in various venues across Boston, West Palm Beach and Gainesville, FL. I participated in a UF study abroad program in the Bahamas on Andros Island, through which I navigated the surrounding area for wood and wildlife and learned carving techniques from local and UF sculptors. Having volunteered with several organizations specializing in service through the arts, I enjoy mentoring fellow community members from five to 65 years old. I participated in the Golden Door rehabilitation for the homeless, which taught participants legal rights, financial literacy, communication skills, and helped them express themselves through therapeutic art techniques. To pay the bills, I teach a UF leisure course, Everything’s Gonna Be Crochet, and am a teaching assistant for Gainesville Creative Kids, an organization that hosts art classes for local children, featuring everything from mommy and me dance classes to workshop experiences in fabric arts and sculpture. I am also a 2008 and 2010 recipient of the Amy Nicole DeGrove Memorial Scholarship for quality of work in the Arts and academic achievement. I plan to use the HHMI award for new projects that explore the properties of metals through forging, electric and gas welding and bronze casting. With these techniques I plan to explore forms based on that of books as they relate to the internal structures of walls and skin.

Kelly Gracia

I, along with my research partner Julie Chang, studied the behaviors and interactions of ant fungal cultivars from the species *Apertostigma dentigerum* and *Acromyrmex octospinosus* and their corresponding pathogenic fungi in the genus *Escovopsis* in order to create art with the fungi acting as their media. We created two fungal-art pieces—one was inspired by Andy Warhol’s pop art and one was of a landscape. We plan to use the award money to fund the cost of materials for their next art piece, a mixed-media mural, as well as materials for their art/science outreach program.

I am from Brownsville, Texas and am currently in my third year at Emory University.
Michael Hochman

I am a third year biochemistry major and communication studies minor. I am currently conducting research under the direction of Dr. Sue Semple-Rowland in the Department of Neuroscience. For the Science for Life Creativity in the Arts and Sciences Event (CASE), I presented research on novel genetic elements that can be used to create successful gene therapies. Some of my interests are video games, racquetball, forensics, and reading. I hope to go to medical school and pursue a career in academic medicine. The CASE award will allow me to attend several southeastern conferences on molecular genetics and vision.

Richard Walroth

I was born in Miami, Florida in 1989. At the age of seven I moved to Mexico, and four years later returned to the United States. I became interested in chemistry after taking an introductory chemistry course in high school. Something about the study of interacting molecules intrigued me, and upon gaining admission to the University of Florida I decided to major in biochemistry. The strains of university level courses at first dissuaded me from such a rigorous major, but though I switched majors I continued with the pre-professional track and went on to take organic chemistry. After taking the organic teaching lab my love for chemistry was renewed and I decided to switch back. At the same time I managed to impress my TA enough for her to recommend me to Dr. McElwee-White, who accepted me into her research group in the spring of my sophomore year. I have since decided to pursue a career as a research scientist instead of a medical doctor, and hope to gain acceptance to graduate school for Fall 2012.

My current research interests involve the development of catalysts to be used in direct ethanol fuel cells. Hydrogen fuel cell technology is well developed, but hydrogen is difficult to produce, store, and transport. If alcohols could be used as a fuel instead then several of these problems associated with using hydrogen gas could be avoided. However, new catalysts are needed to be able to run the electrochemistry more efficiently. Therefore, I have been working with the McElwee-White group at the University of Florida to synthesize a heterobimetallic catalyst which will be able to do this sort of electrochemistry. I hope to use the award money to attend the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Virginia this coming October. It would be my first opportunity to participate in a conference on a regional scale, and I am very much looking forward to being able to present my research at the conference.
Beckman foundation. The work I presented at the Creativity for the Arts and Sciences event was titled “The effect of increased autophagic flux on oxidative damage in C2C12 myoblasts”. My research deals with a cell’s natural ability to use the process of autophagy to remove organelles damaged by reactive oxygen species. I predicted that if autophagic activity is increased in mouse C2C12 muscle stem cells then the cells will become more resistant to an oxidative stressor. Preliminary results support my hypothesis, but more work will need to be done to further investigate the many facets of this mechanism. I plan to use my award money for exactly that. I want to use it to possibly buy supplies for my research or travel to conferences where I can further present my work. This award will definitely open doors for me, and I’m grateful that so many people are interested in my work.

Maria Duarte

I am a third year Microbiology and Cell Science and Anthropology major at the University of Florida. I work in Dr. David Julian’s laboratory, and as a Beckman Scholar, receive funding for my work from the Arnold and Mabel Intensive. I aspire to one day receive my certification in American Sign Language Interpretation and create new theatrical works incorporating sign with speech.

Stefanie Anarumo

I am a first year BFA Acting student and am thrilled and honored to be a CASE Award recipient. I am an active member within the Honors College and as well as Florida Players. Within my first year of college, I was cast in the School of Theatre and Dance’s main stage productions of "Madwoman of Chaillot" and "Baby the Musical." The latter of which will be participating in the International Fringe Festival, in Edinburgh, Scotland, this summer. I was honored to be part of an original works piece titled "Note to Self" and will be performing in the Florida Players' New Works Performance of "Shotgun Party". I have trained with pre-professional programs such as Broadway Theatre Project and the NYC Rockette Summer Intensive.
Other winners not pictured are: Gregory Cole, Paul Pino, Melaney Holtham, Juan Camilo Giraldo-Vasquez, and Julie Chang.