



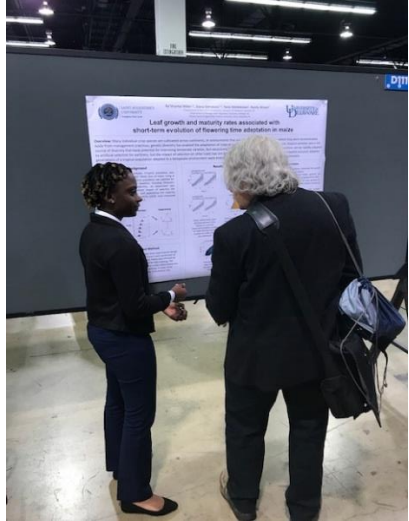
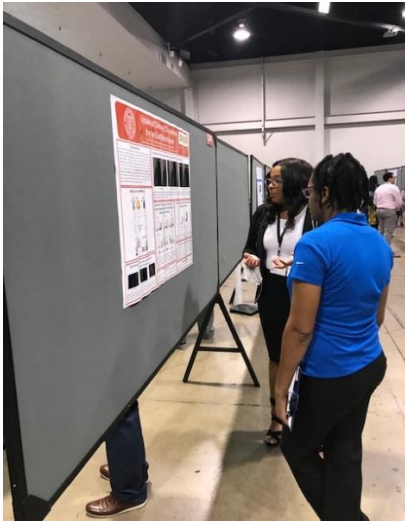
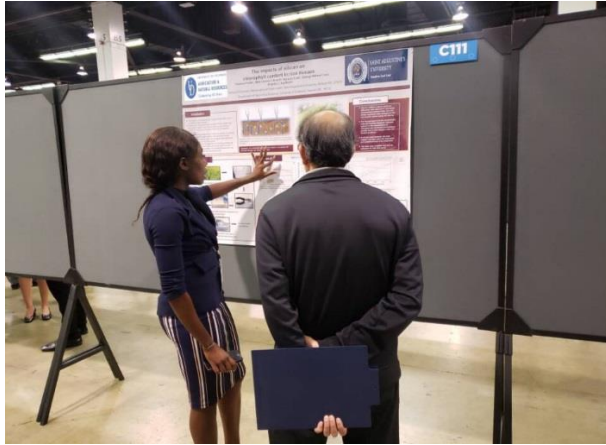
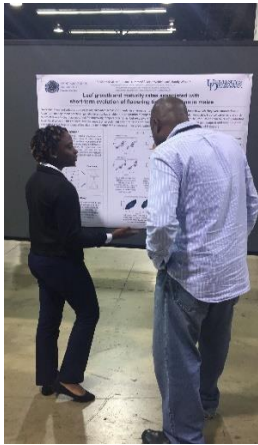
The School of Sciences, Mathematics and Public Health ‘represents’ at ABCRMS!

Undergraduate Research Scholars from the School of Sciences, Mathematics and Public Health at Saint Augustine’s University presented research and networked with peers at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Anaheim, California on November 13-16, 2019. Conference attendance was organized by Mrs. Sheila Spence – STEM Coordinator and supported by the National Science Foundation grants – HBCU-UP S-STEM, and VA-NC LSAMP for which Dr. Mark A. Melton – Dean, School of Sciences, Mathematics and Public Health, serves as Principal Investigator.



In attendance were: Left to Right – Dr. Tyrell Carr, Assistant Professor of Biology; Ka’shawn Robertson, Chemistry Major; Naudia Gay, Biology Major; Marcella da Costa, Biology Major; Florence Fields, Biology Major; Ra’Shanti Miller, Biology Major; Tyra Onley, Biology Major; Chandra Mackey, Biology Major; Jose Reyes, Engineering Mathematics Major; and Dr. Mark A. Melton, Professor of Biology and Dean of the School of Sciences, Mathematics & Public Health.

Dr. Melton served as a judge for poster presentations in developmental biology & genetics and Dr. Carr served as a judge for oral presentations in the same discipline. Dr. Carr also served as an Ambassador for the Developmental Biology & Genetics Sessions. He also secured a travel award to assist with coordinating the Judges Orientation Meeting, ensuring that poster presenters in the discipline received scores from 3 judges each, and served as Co-Lead for the **'Networking in Your Scientific Discipline'**, to name a few.



Poster Presentation Award

Marcella da Costa

Certificate of Achievement in Microbiology and \$300 Award



Purpose

The conference is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, engineering, and mathematics and to provide faculty mentors and advisors with resources for facilitating students' success. The experience was very valuable and rewarding for all! More than 1,200 vendors from colleges, universities and companies were in attendance to actively recruit some of the best and brightest minority students in the world. ABRCMS is the largest, professional conference for biomedical, bioengineering, and behavioral mathematic students, attracting approximately 5,600 individuals, including approximately 2,900 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students & postdoctoral scientists, and 1,200 faculty, program directors and administrators. Students represent more than 350 U.S. colleges and universities.

Additionally, students are judged on their oral and poster presentations in 12 different scientific disciplines. SAU STEM majors presented their Summer 2019 research in the poster sessions. The titles of their presentations are as follows below.

Summer 2019 Undergraduate Research Presented at ABRCMS 2019

- **Ka'shawn Robertson** – *Sequence-controlled Polyurethane Vitrimers Networks*

Location: Cornell University

Mentor: Dr. Emily Hoff

- **Jose Reyes** – *Evaluation of Efficiency in Current Aquatic Organism Passage Guidance in Culvert and Pipe Designs*

Location: North Carolina Department of Transportation, Hydraulics Unit

Mentors: Brain S. Lipscomb, PE and Andrew McDaniel, PE

- **Naudia Gay** – *Identification of Adrenergic Receptors in Stress Related Brain Regions*

Location: National Institute of Environmental Health Science

Mentor: Dr. Patricia Jensen and Dr. Leslie Wilson

- **Marcella da Costa** – *Analysis of Waquoit Bay Phytoplankton Diversity and Abundance Using Multiple Methods*

Location: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Gast and Dr. Nicole Millette

- **Florence Fields** – *The Impacts of Silicon on Chlorophyll Content in Rice Tissues*

Location: University of Delaware

Mentor: Dr. Angelia Seyfferth

- **Chandra Mackey** – *Understanding what Environmental Cues Aid in Tick Populations in Northeast Ohio*

Location: Kent State University

Mentor: Dr. Christie A. Bahlai

- **Ra'Shanti Miller** – *Leaf Growth and Maturity Rates Associated with Short-term Evolution of Flowering Time Adaptation in Maize*

Location: University of Delaware

Mentor: Dr. Randall J. Wisser

- **Tyra Onley** – *Uptake of Dietary Cholesterol by the Gut Microbiome*

Location: Cornell University

Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Johnson

STEM Futures

Attendance at ABRCMS 2019 has encouraged students to further excel in research and professional opportunities. Ms. **Naudia Gay** is a Spring 2020 Candidate for Graduation and is currently applying to STEM graduate programs. Parks is also an undergraduate research scholar in the 2019-2020 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Scholars Connect Program. Other senior scholars are also applying to STEM graduate/professional programs. SSMPH majors are encouraged to apply to summer research programs to strengthen their applications.