

## UB RISE 2025 AWARD WINNERS

### Distinguished Faculty Award

#### **Justin M. Caithaml, PhD**

[We All Belong: A Descriptive Analysis of Gender and Sexuality Discourse in Music Education Professional Development #4](#)

College of Science and Society  
Music Department

#### **Randy Laist, PhD**

Andres Avila, Karen Azucena, Tayshaun Bookal, Brian Figueroa, Andrew Fleming, Zahkiyyah Frazier, Abigail Giron Marroquin, Lena Graham, Lashay Green, Morgan Johnson, Rayhan Khan, Ashton Landowski, Angelina Ledesma, Samantha Ledger, Glenn Manigault, Joseph Martin, Kyara Pereira, Marcella Ramos, Edival Rios, Lily Rodriguez, Kieran Ross, Ceezar Samson, Cheyann Tiffany, Alexander Torrens, Nathaniel Walter, Samantha Wilson

[Salvation from the Skies: Convergent Analyses of Flying Saucers in American Cinema and Post-Freudian Psychology #1](#)

College of Science and Society  
English Department

#### **David Peterson, EdD**

[Evaluating the Effectiveness of Educational Programs in the Federal Bureau of Prisons #2](#)

College of Science and Society  
Department of Criminal Justice and Human Security

## **Doctoral Category**

### **1st PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Nadine Matondo-Mvula**

[Breast Cancer Detection with Quantvolutional Neural Networks #19](#)

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

### **2nd PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Natalie R. Savopoulos**

[Program Coordinators' and Alumni Perceptions: A Qualitative Study of CT Open Choice Program's Mission #18](#)

Advisor: Lauren Francese, EdD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Education

### **3rd PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Hepseeba Kode**

[Attention based Temporal Convolutional Network for Epileptic Seizure Detection #17](#)

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department Computer Science and Engineering

### **ALUMNI AWARD**

**Abdulrahman Ali Kariri**

[Astute Support System with Voice Feedback for Visually Impaired and Blind Assistance #15](#)

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department Computer Science and Engineering

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

**Abdulaziz Alwehaibi**

[Mitigating Quantum Decoherence Risk for Scalable Communication #14](#)

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department Engineering & Technology

## **Master's Category**

### **1<sup>st</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Amber Dupont**

Causative Factors of Paraeducator Attrition and Retention (PEAR) Rates #37

Advisor: Kerry Jones, EdD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Education

### **2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Anjana Paudel**

An Analysis of Innocence Network Organizations #38

Advisor: Cassidy Haigh

College of Science and Society

Department of Criminal Justice and Human Security

### **3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION**

**Youssef Hassan**

Vision-Based Real-Time Wildfire Detection: Deep Learning Approach #56

Advisors: Ahmed El Sayed, PhD; Navarun Gupta, PhD; Xingguo Xiong, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

### **ALUMNI AWARD**

**Evans Awuah**

Molecular Docking and Dynamics Simulations for Identifying Effective Antiviral Inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 #41

Advisor: Peiqiao Wu, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Biomedical Engineering

### **HONORABLE MENTION**

**Godwin Agyei Owusu**

Design and Development of a Lightweight Chassis Frame for a One Passenger Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing Vehicle (eVTOL) based on Jetson One #43

Advisor: Junling Hu, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Mechanical Engineering

## Undergraduate Category

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Maimouna Traore, Malique Montaque, Millenia Michel, Roeshai Ludd, NaimaDewan**

[Mpow3R visioN Smart Mirror: Enhancing daily life, one reflection at a time # 79](#)

Advisor: Sarosh Patel, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Patricia Bermeo, Jordan Berry, Felix Bonilla, Thomas Schoenfelder**

[3BT SmartAI Home Surveillance System #83](#)

Advisor Ausif Mahmood & Ahmed El Sayed

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Departments of Computer Science and Electrical and Computer Engineering

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Huy Huong, Juan Rosario Madina, Alex Armatis, Carlos Lara**

[Lawnbot: Affordable Autonomous Lawnmower #81](#)

Advisor: Sarosh Patel, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Departments of Computer Science and Engineering

### ALUMNI AWARD

**Ali Hamadeen, Xander Smith, Patrick Augustin, Leland Cruz**

[HailoUBot: Smart Navigation and Path Sharing #80](#)

Advisor: Ahmed El Sayed, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Electrical Engineering

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Xander Smith, Alexander Granda, Laurence Bimpeh, Abdullah Alsulaim**

[ParkSense #84](#)

Advisor: Sarosh Patel, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Electrical Engineering

## High School Category

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Anjali Prabhu**

Determining the Clinical Profile of Trauma-Induced Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: Experimental Design #109

Advisor: Dr. Helen Pushkarskaya & Avalon Moore, Sarah Reeves  
Amity Regional High School

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**William Bentley**

Comparing the Effectiveness of AlCl<sub>3</sub>-NaCl and Zeolite ZSM 5 Catalysts in the Pyrolysis of HDPE #115

Advisor: Kirk Shadle  
Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Kacee Tam**

Investigating the Level of Creativity and the Association With the Perception of Dissonance in Music in Western High School Students #110

Advisor: Sarah Reeves  
Amity Regional High School

### ALUMNI AWARD

**Olivia LaRiccia**

The Impact of Combined Bromelain and Papain Hydrogel on Wound Healing Processes Relative to Enhanced Enzyme Extraction Techniques #105

Advisor: Kirk Shadle  
Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center

### HONORABLE MENTION

**Charlotte Talbot**

Evaluation of Potential Application of Cassiospea Xamachana's Nematocysts as a Transdermal Drug Delivery System #106

Advisor: Kirk Shadle  
Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center

## CLIMATE INNOVATION AWARD

Award Prizes Sponsored by Entrepreneurship Foundation Inc. Founder, Mike Roer '08

### **William Bentley**

[Comparing the Effectiveness of AlCl<sub>3</sub>-NaCl and Zeolite ZSM 5 Catalysts in the Pyrolysis of HDPE #115](#)

Advisor: Kirk Shadle

Bridgeport Regional Aquaculture Science and Technology Education Center

### **Jaydee Cruz De Los Santos**

[Comparison of Satellite vs. Ground-based Data of Ozone Concentrations #114](#)

Advisor: Susan Dougherty

Stamford High School

### **Ensley Lansford**

[W.E.T. \(Water, Energy, Time\) Gardens #112](#)

Advisor: Shannon Hashemi, DBA, CMA

Easton Country Day School

## OPTIMIZING BUSINESS PROFITABILITY THROUGH THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AWARD

Award Prizes Sponsored by Dr. Shannon Hashemi, CMA and Dr. Al Daneshfar, CMA, owners of Tradewinds Shopping Center in Middletown

### **Dinh Cuong (Ernest) Nguyen**

[Employee Attrition: Leveraging Machine Learning Explainability to Identify Key Predictors of Turnover #22](#)

Advisor: Dan Tenney, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Technology Management

### **Nikita Prem, Avanthi Booplan, Dimple Patel, Joan Okoji, Maria Dahlstorm, Mohitha Chilakapati, Shiva Datta Reddy Annu**

[Prompt Engineering an AI Agent for Interpretation of ML Results #57](#)

Advisor: Ali Baker, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

Ernest C. Trefz School of Business

## QUANTUM COMPUTING APPLICATIONS AWARDS

Award Prizes Sponsored by Dr. Khaled Elleithy, Dean of the College of Engineering Business and Education

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Nadine Matondo-Mvula**

[Breast Cancer Detection with Quantum Neural Networks](#) #19

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Shatha Alhazmi**

[Live Forensic on Real Quantum Device Using Quantum Gates](#) #20

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Abdulaziz Alwehaibi**

[Mitigating Quantum Decoherence Risk for Scalable Communication](#) #14

Advisor: Khaled Elleithy, PhD

College of Engineering, Business, Education

School of Engineering

Department Engineering & Technology

## UNIVERSITY OF BRIDGEPORT STUDENT BUSINESS PLAN PITCH COMPETITION

Award Prizes Sponsored by The NorthEast Community Innovation Corp. (NCIC) and Dr. Shannon Hashemi, CMA and Dr. Al Daneshfar, CMA of Tradewinds Shopping Center (Middletown, CT),

### 1<sup>st</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Tadiwanshe Prince Mujaya and Patricia Nabayunga - Sweetie**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Cat Aucoin and Nova Staruk - SHARP-EYE**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> PLACE RECOGNITION

**Riya Regmi - Roam-mate**

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Geonna Snyder – MagneTidy**

**Daniela Nieto, Luiza Macedo and Manuela Macedo – Slick Brush**

