



## ENGAGED LEARNING

SMU recognizes that students who actively engage in research, service, internships and other creative, entrepreneurial activities related to their studies have enhanced academic experiences.

Engaged Learning challenges students to learn beyond the classroom, to take an active role in their education by bringing their disciplinary training and intellectual capital to bear on real-world issues in real-world settings. Students may realize their own project ideas or participate in engaged learning activating offered by various departments, offices and programs throughout the University.

Students have the opportunity to propose their independent learning activities as engaged learning projects which are supported by a grants program and noted on student transcripts as SMU's most prestigious undergraduate engagement program. An Engaged Learning project can take any form as long as it is capstone-level, student-driven, linked to the students education but beyond regular classroom work.

Projects typically span two academic years. Students apply during the annual application cycle: November 15–February 15, work on their projects through the summer and fall, present their findings at the Engaged Learning Forum held in the semester of graduation, and turn in project reports, suitable for publication, April 15 for May graduates or November 30 for December graduates.

The Office of Engaged Learning provides structure and guidance throughout. For more information: [www.smu.edu/engagedlearning](http://www.smu.edu/engagedlearning)

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# ENGAGED LEARNING FORUM

## STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

HT Forum, 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday, January 24, 2013

## PROGRAM

Showcasing the exceptional work of SMU undergraduate students through capstone-level projects beyond the classroom.

Projects range from undergraduate research to civic engagement, from professional internships to creative projects.



*The Engaged Learning Forum schedule inside lists all projects by student and indicates student's major and project mentor.*

### SESSION 1: 10:30 am - 12 pm

- 10:30 Welcome
- 10:40 **JONATHAN MACHEMEHL** discusses his founding of Boulevard PR and its focus on helping local non-profits develop their message and reach different audiences through implementation of various media. (Major: PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Steve Lee)
- 10:50 **JACQUELINE ROSS** tells the story of the multi-racial, multi-ethnic undergraduate student experience. (Major: COMM; Mentor: Dr. Owen Lynch)
- 11:00 **AUSTIN MCBRIDE** researched peer university undergraduate pre-law programs and, using a cost benefit model, presents the correlation between student pre-law preparation and admittance into Law School. (Major: ECON; Mentor: Dr. Ellen Pryor)
- 11:10 **JEAN PAUL DESTARAC** speaks about his on-site research on the European debt crisis and its relationship to a lack of Eurozone central fiscal authority. (Majors: ECON, MKCL; Mentor: Dr. Thomas Osang)
- 11:20 **KATIE JONES** reports on her summer spent working with farmers in Ecuador's Amazon region to develop sustainable solutions to restore the local ecosystem to its original balance. (Major: ECON; Mentor: Dr. Victoria Lockwood)
- 11:30 **MIRANDA PARHAM** recreates her solo performance that captures her research of U.S. consumer culture and gender. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Rhonda Blair)
- 11:40 **HILARY HOPKINS** discusses her study of Envoy, a protein found in the fungus *Trichoderma reesei* with promising applications in the biofuel industry, as part of her undergraduate research project. (Major: BIOCHM; Mentor: Dr. Brian Zoltowski)
- 11:50 Q&A
- 12:00 Break

### SESSION 2: 12:30 - 1:50 pm

- 12:30 **DYLAN SMITH** reads from his novella inspired by his time at the SMU-in-Taos campus this summer and reflections of his past. (Major: ENGL; Mentor: Dr. David Haynes)
- 12:40 **KATHLEEN MASTERSON** talks about her work mapping and recording ancient tree fossils of the Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona. (Major: GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Louis Jacobs)
- 12:50 **LAURA ISRAEL** reports on her research into the well-being and life satisfaction in collegiate gifted and talented students as part of her departmental distinction project. (Major: PSYC, ENGL; Mentors: Dr. Ann Batenburg and Marilyn Swanson)
- 1:00 **KATIE YE** discusses her research of upward communication, specifically female gender stereotypes in her native country of China. (Major: FINA; Mentor: Dr. John Sumanth)
- 1:10 **CLAIRE COOGAN** presents on her departmental distinction project that is advancing the current understanding of metabolic diseases, such as diabetes, using the fruit fly as model organism. (Major: BIOL; Mentor: Dr. Johannes Bauer)
- 1:20 **ETHAN PATRICK** demonstrates how he coded a run-time music visualizer using Max 6 and processing software and used it at a live performance at the Conservatoire de Musique in Cannes, France. (Major: MUSC; Mentor: Dr. Ira Greenberg)
- 1:30 **MICHAEL TRAN** researched the feasibility of adding the invasive species, Asian Carp, into the U.S. food supply and, after visiting carp sites along the Mississippi River, came to a new conclusion which he will discuss. (Major: MATH, CSE; Mentor: Dr. Yeo-Jin Chung)
- 1:40 Q&A
- 1:50 Break

### SESSION 3: 2 - 3:20 pm

- 2:00 **JUAN CASTILLO** shows how creating a group mural with Hispanic youth through a student leadership program at Irving ISD empowers students and changes lives. (Major: ARST; Mentor: Katie Bell)
- 2:10 **PASCUAL PELLEGRINO** presents his findings of the socio-economic struggles of the undocumented through surveys with college-age youth and their families. (Major: PLSC, INTLST; Mentor: Dr. Jim Hollifield)
- 2:20 **MENALCO SOLIS** discusses the debate that surrounds immigration reform in the U.S., balancing the perception of citizens with the experience of the undocumented. (Major: PLSC, INTLST; Mentor: Dr. Jim Hollifield)
- 2:30 **JAYWIN MALHI** talks about his summer internship on Capitol Hill in Senator John Cornyn's and Congressman Pete Sessions' congressional offices where he learned about regional and national policy-making. (Major: MGMT; PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Michael Lusztiq)
- 2:40 **BRYCE JOHNSON** explains how he developed the Spanish for Business Certification Program, a joint SMU/Chamber initiative while interning with the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce. (Major: FL, MKCL; Mentor: Dr. Leticia McDoniel)
- 2:50 **PAMELA NICKELL** introduced the examination material and a study guide she developed for the Spanish for Business Certification Program, a joint SMU/ US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce initiative. (Major: SPAN, INTL; Mentor: Dr. Leticia McDoniel)
- 3:00 **RACHEL STONECIPHER** speaks about her volunteer activity at No More Deaths aid camp, Arizona, the social inequalities and motivations inherent in such service-based work, and her departmental distinction research that addresses these issues. (Major: CTV, ANTH; Mentor: Dr. Caroline Brettell)
- 3:10 Q&A
- 3:20 Break

### SESSION 4: 3:30 - 4:30 pm

- 3:30 **KIMBERLY MENDOZA** discusses her findings of the health-related traditions, beliefs and practices in an indigenous Mayan community in Guatemala. (Major: BIOL, CHEM, SPAN; Mentor: Dr. Nia Parson)
- 3:40 **AFOMIA HAILEMESKEL** recreates her audio contribution to GIRL, a performance piece that compares and contrasts the lives of teenage girls in the Bronx and in Highland Park, a result of a summer internship at Market Roads Films in Brooklyn, NY. (Major: THEA; Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Smith)
- 3:50 **ANDREW LIN** presents an overview of his research of the anatomy of a 17-million-year-old beaked whale specimen in SMU's Institute for the Study of Earth and Man compared with a modern beaked whale fossil he worked on at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. (Major: BIOL, GEOL; Mentor: Dr. Louis Jacobs)
- 4:00 **ROZA ESSAW** discusses her assessment of the human rights situation in post-genocide Rwanda as a result of research which included on-site interviews with Rwandans and other involved in human rights activism. (Major: COMM, PLSC; Mentor: Dr. Rick Halperin)
- 4:10 **ADEN ABIYE** talks about how she developed and lead life skills training workshops for youths and adults in community centers in Ethiopia. (Major: ECON, MKCL; Mentor: Ms. Ne'Shaun Robinson-Jones)
- 4:20 Q&A
- 4:30 Closing Remarks