

Psychology students present work at UCLA

■ Psychology 12 students had the unique opportunity of taking their class work to the next level.

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A group of students from winter quarter's Psychology 12 attended the UCLA Undergraduate Psychology Conference this month. Psychology 12 is a research and methods class that was taught by Professor Curt Burgess.

The conference, held May 11, gave the 35 students the opportunity to present their research projects in front of a panel of judges.

The projects were presented either as posters or papers, reflecting a look into future endeavors in psychology.

"In addition to learning more about research, it's a part of the socialization into the profession of psychology," Burgess said.

A total of 19 California colleges and universities attended the conference. UCR had the second highest number of students in attendance next to UCLA, the hosts of the conference.

"We had a lot more interested students this year and I think it had to do with the teaching assistants who were very good in working these students," Burgess said.

The projects ranged from con-

cept acquisition to criminal justice. Most of the projects involved social psychological issues.

"Me and three other people decided to experiment to see whether or not the likelihood of sexual betrayal would be correlated with gender and sexual orientation," sophomore Mayhar Fekrat said.

UCR also had many sophomores attending the conference. Burgess said that usually honors students and seniors are chosen to attend the conference.

"This experience definitely had an impact on my decision to get involved in doing more research during my undergraduate years and maybe even after I

graduate," Fekrat said.

After the posters and papers are presented in separate sessions, they are either accepted or rejected. All nine of the UCR projects presented at this conference were accepted despite the fact that students were only given 11.5 weeks to work on them and prepare for the conference.

Many of the students from other schools who made presentations at the conference had been working on their research projects for a year or longer.

"Everyone did a really good job and really rose to the occasion," Burgess said.

Throughout the entire history of this conference UCR has

always represented the largest number of students at the conference next to UCLA.

"There is more of an integration of research and teaching, and that makes the UCR experience special," Burgess said.

"I'm still undecided about my career decision in the future," sophomore Ann Rhee said. "But this experience did make me want to study further into psychology."

Burgess encourages students to take on this challenging course to hopefully have a clearer understanding of their future prospects.

"The Psychology 12 research methods class was probably one of the hardest, but also most interesting, classes that I have ever taken," Fekrat said.