

Report on the AUUBC

March 9-11, 2001 at Mount Saint Vincent University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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The 32nd Annual Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) was held on March 9-11 at Mount Saint Vincent University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This is an annual conference for life sciences students across Atlantic Canada, featuring presentations of Honours project research. It is supported by the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS) and organised by members of the APICS Biology Committee.



Oral presentation award winners
Karen MacDonald, Dawn Armstrong
and Megan Ferguson.

Barbara Rao of Mount Saint Vincent University managed this year's conference. The conference featured 20 speakers and 17 poster presentations. In all, 135 people attended, including a number of younger undergraduate students whom we hope will be among the presenters at our future conferences. The AUUBC was held concurrently with the APICS Aquaculture conference (50 attendees) so there was a lively crowd of life sciences enthusiasts when the events were underway.



Roger Lee (Memorial University, chair of the APICS Biology Committee), and poster presentation award winners Robert Bishop, Renée Cormier, Michael Taboski and David Chiasson. Photos: Lois Whitehead (APICS)

Topics covered at the AUUBC ranged from biological oceanography and field ecology to gene expression and genomic analyses. Oral and poster presentations were judged by three-member panels from the Biology committee and cash prizes

were awarded. The diversity made judging a special challenge but it also made the conference an exciting mix for all involved. Prizes this year were awarded as follows:

Oral presentations

First Prize - **Monica Shuegraf**, *St. Frances Xavier University* The effects of temperature, viscosity and growth on *Artemia* locomotion at intermediate Reynolds numbers

Second Prize - **Melissa Wamboldt**, *Mount Saint Vincent University* Mechanism of oocyte hy-

dration in marine teleosts

Third Prize - **Megan Ferguson**, *Acadia University* Partial sequence analysis of the mtDNA of the deep-sea scallop, *Placopecten magellanicus*

Honourable Mentions -

Karen MacDonald, *Mount Allison University* Cardiac function in diabetic rats treated with a metal complex

Dawn Armstrong, *Dalhousie University* The effect of geographical isolation on the genetic distribution of two American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) sub-populations

Posters

First Prize - **Robert Bishop**, *Memorial University of Newfoundland* Does toxaphene act as an endocrine disruptor in juvenile yellowtail flounder (*Limanda ferruginea* Storer)

Second Prize - **David Chiasson**, *Saint Francis Xavier University* Polyphenols and UV protection in *Aglaothamnion oosumiense*

Third Prize - **Michael Taboski**, *SMU* Cadmium uptake in the marine fungi *Collospora lacera* and *Monodactylus pelagica*

Honourable Mention - **Renée Cormier**, *Acadia University* Distribution and recolonization of pitcher plant-inhabiting insects following defaunation in bogs surrounded by forest, clear-cut and scrub

Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC)

The Biology committee of the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (<http://www.apics.dal.ca/index2.html>) holds an annual conference for undergraduate life sciences students across Atlantic Canada.

The Atlantic Universities Undergraduate Biology Conference (AUUBC) features oral and poster presentations by Honours students from universities throughout the area. Each university can send two poster and two oral presenters to the conference.

Be sure to encourage your honours students to attend this conference or others like it in other regions – this can be the start of a great career in life sciences.