



March 2024

Researchers Present Work at 6th Annual Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS - At last week's 6th Annual Plastic Pollution Symposium, researchers gathered at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi to present their latest work on the impacts of plastics in the environment, alongside students from middle to grad school. The day full pollution solution talks began with Dr. Huy Vu of the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 6 Trash Free Waters Program Coordinator welcoming the audience and detailing the program's three-speared approach of preventing, removing, and researching ways to remove plastics from our waterways with partnerships across the nation.



The research presented throughout the day fell right on the cutting edge, using both tried and novel research methods to identify and understand the types of microplastics in our water ways, how they got there, how they interact with natural processes, and how to mitigate further impacts. High-level work was presented from university labs across the state, not only focused on coastal impacts but the ailments of inland waterways as well.



CBBEP was honored to sponsor the student awards for those who placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd for presenting their work at the podium or their poster session. Know that great minds are at work to solve the plastic pollution problem, but you can be part of the solution by choosing sustainable options.

Great job to all those who presented their work and everyone who helped make the meeting a success.



Winners of the 2024 Texas Plastic Pollution Symposium Oral Presentation and Poster Session Student Awards.

1st place Oral Presentation – Andre Felton: Spatiotemporal Characterization of Microplastic Pollution in Two Urban IRES Systems of Central Texas

2nd Place Oral Presentation: Xiangtao Jiang: Tracking the photooxidation products of primary plastic pellets (nurdles) in the marine environment

3rd Place Oral Presentation: Allisa Richbourg: Effects of Photodegraded Polycarbonate and Polyethylene Particles on the Development of Marine Medaka (*Oryzias melastigma*)

1st Place Poster Session – Taiwo Ayironde: Adsorption behavior of methylparaben on microplastics

2nd Place Poster Session – Clancy Collum: Effects of Simulated Gastrointestinal digestion on Laboratory Generated Microplastic Particles (LG-MPPs)

3rd Place Poster Session – Mansi Patel & Laila Navyelt: Can plastic consumption cause a shift in gut microbiome composition? A generational study of the plastic-eating superworm, *Zophobas morio*.

The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of Texas Coastal Bend. CBBEP is partially funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Quinn Hendrick, 361-336-0305 or qhendrick@cbbep.org.

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