

Report on Capstone Design Competition April 6, 2026

My Dear Colleagues,

The capstone design competition of Spring 2026 took place in the Ballroom on Monday April 6 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. We had 17 teams and 3 capstone advisors (Tom Consi, Canek Fuentes, and Bahram Shafai). We had 12 capstone judges. The abstract of projects and guidelines were provided for the judges along with the evaluation sheet. The capstone competition event was successful, and judges were impressed with all 17 projects.

The guidelines for judging the projects were divided mainly into three categories as follows:

1. Description of the project, abstract, motivation, and usefulness of the project.
2. Innovative and Creativity of proposed solution, analysis, and means to achieve the goal.
3. Functionality of subsystems, completion of project, simulation, and their presentation

The judges gave a score of 1-10 corresponding to each of the above criteria and entered the total score out of 30 for all projects in the evaluation sheet. The judge coordinator collected all scores from all judges and added the total score for each team. He was responsible for specifying the best five or six projects. All capstone teams did fantastic jobs completing their projects. This year the best 6 projects out of 17 teams were identified.

The result of the winning teams is summarized below.

First Place 1 (\$1250):

Project: **Helping Hand: An Assistive Robotic Platform with Vision Control**

Team: Mark Yang, Huaqing Wang, Riley Intihar, Krish Gupta, Nicole Contreras, Henry Gao

Advisor: Professor Bahram Shafai

First Place 2 (\$1250):

Project: **Dalmatians**

Team: Rebecca Dozortsev, Matthew Baker, Tyler Von Pervieux, Kaitlyn Hu, Augustine Nguyen, Jason Yang

Advisor: Professor Bahram Shafai

Second Place 1 (\$750):

Project: **CTHULHU: Cancer-Targeting Hyperspectral Ultraprecise LASER Handling Unit**

Team: Hazel Bershatsky, James Brennan, Alexi Carlone, Matt Geisel, Iris Kaucher, Julia Keadey

Advisor: Professor Canek Fuentes

Second Place 2 (\$750):

Project: **Heat Seekers (Wildfire Detection System)**

Team: Jani Passas, Dani McLaughlin, Fausta Fenner, Spandana Machavarapu, Abhiram Pulavarthi, Sarah Ninan

Advisor: Professor Tom Consi

Third Place 1 (\$500):

Project: **GloVR: A VR Hand Rehabilitation System**

Team: Page Patterson, Catherine Menten, Jackymora Isa, Spencer Sweeney, Tobechukwu Aniagboso

Advisor: Professor Bahram Shafai

Third Place 2 (\$500):

Project: **RepSense**

Team: Alex Wise, Aaron Xu, Connor McEleney, Maria Clara Porto, Thomas Glassman, Zachary Klusky

Advisor: Professor Canek Fuentes