By: Andre DeSouza

Many undergraduate students sitting at the back of Colony Ballroom during Bioscience Research Day’s Keynote speech were unaware of the great opportunity they had just missed earlier that day. By noon on November 10th the main event at Bioscience Research Day was well underway underneath the chandeliers of the Grand Ballroom in the Stamp Student Union. Well over a hundred people who had shown up for this event were walking from poster to poster listening to enthusiastic professors, graduate students, and undergraduates explaining their respective projects and their significance. However, this was just one of the many events planned for the day which showcased a wide range of research. Gene Ferrick, who was in charge of the event, said that his goals for the event were to display research being performed at the university and provide individuals with an opportunity to network. There was a myriad of opportunities to do so throughout the day for professors, graduate students, and undergraduates alike.

The day began with the networking panel consisting of representatives from industry and the federal laboratories, such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, who discussed the opportunities available for students outside the realm of academia. Run in a question and answer format, the panel answered various questions from the audience about how it is like to work in their respective industry or government position. They emphasized the various internships that are available to both undergraduates and graduate students that may even have the possibility to turn into jobs. In addition, they described the plethora of science related jobs available in industry and the government and the advantages of these government jobs. They deeply encouraged undergraduates who may be wary to consider working in government and industry positions. After the question and answer portion was over, students were given the opportunity to talk to each person on the panel individually. They received tips about undergraduate internships and career advancements in industry or the federal government.