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2016 HONORS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

SCHEDULE

Thesis Presentations

Nessmith-Lane Classrooms

Session 1

11:00am to 12:00pm

Reception and Poster Presentations

Nessmith-Lane Ballroom

12:15pm to 1:15pm

Welcome

Dr. Steven Engel

Director, University Honors Program

Dr. Diana Cone

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

12:30pm

Thesis Presentations

Nessmith-Lane Classrooms

Session 2

1:30pm to 2:30pm

Session 3

2:45pm to 3:45pm

Session 4

4:00pm to 5:00pm

WELCOME

Welcome to the Ninth Annual Honors Research Symposium. This event is designed to showcase the research and creative activities of the honors students of Georgia Southern University. This year, over 100 honors students will present their work, bringing the total number of participants to over 600 since 2008. The symposium program falls into two main components: poster presentations and thesis presentations.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentations are designed for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. These students are presenting works based on research carried out in the context of honors classes, research based on experiential learning projects, or the preliminary studies for their Honors Theses. In all cases, poster presenters are eager to engage attendees and receive comments on their work. This is particularly true for juniors, who are, in most cases, just launching their thesis research projects.

Thesis presentations feature graduating seniors who are delivering oral presentations of the results of their Honors Thesis work. Every honors student, in order to graduate as an honors scholar, must complete an Honors Thesis or Capstone Project. As the titles and abstracts in this program indicate, these projects span the realms of inquiry and creativity available here at Georgia Southern University.

Also listed in this program are the faculty mentors who have worked with each of these students, providing advice, support, and mentorship as the students have completed these projects.

THESIS PRESENTATIONS



ENJOY THE SYMPOSIUM

Please silence cell phones and do not text during sessions in order to give full attention to all the presenters. Please refrain from leaving sessions early or arriving late if at all possible. If you do plan to leave early to see a different session, please wait until the speaker has finished his or her presentation. Presenters using electronic presentations should load their presentations on the computer prior to the beginning of the session. Moderators will be in each session to make sure presentations run the appropriate length and to moderate Q&A sessions.

THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The University Honors Program provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. The program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective, and an ethic of civic responsibility. A hallmark of the program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning, and service-learning opportunities.

11:00AM - 12:00PM

ROOM 2903

SESSION 1

THESIS PRESENTATIONS
11:00AM - 12:00PM

Austin Bennett

The Financial Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Small Businesses

Accounting

Dr. Charles Harter

A study of the new regulations in the 2008 Affordable Care Act and the likely and actual effects of these laws on healthcare costs for small businesses.

Don Faulk

The Impact of Status Consumption on Luxury Consumption Behaviors: The Influence of Culture

Marketing

Dr. Jacqueline Eastman

This study examined why millennials consume for status from a cultural angle (individualism and collectivism, power distance, and ethnicity). The survey findings suggest that while the motivation to consume for status and the cultural variable of power distance significantly impacted status purchase intention, individualism/collectivism and ethnicity did not.

Samantha Akins

Brassica oleracea var. Italica (Broccoli) and *Brassica oleracea var. Italica x Alboglabra* (Broccolini): A Comparison of Vitamin C Content and Consumer Acceptability.

Nutrition and Food Science

Dr. Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz

This study compared the vitamin C content and consumer acceptability of broccoli to broccolini, a hybrid of broccoli and kai-lan. Vitamin C contents were similar. Consumers rated the raw vegetables comparably. In steamed form, broccoli was preferred over broccolini. Acceptability differences may exist due to higher consumer familiarity with broccoli.

11:00AM - 12:00PM

ROOM 2904

Collin Daly

Electrical Engineering

Novel H.265 Video Traffic Prediction Models Using Artificial Neural Networks

Dr. Rami Haddad

Neural network models are used to predict H.265 ultra-high definition video bandwidth requirements for streaming over Ethernet networks. Various neural network models are proposed and tested. The more efficient model is further tested to determine optimal network configuration and video compression rate.

David Dylan John

Construction Management

Building Information Modeling (BIM) Technology Adoption and Implementation in the Sri Lankan Construction Industry; First part - The Diagnosis

Dr. Marcel Maghiar

The first of a two-part study to assess the adoption and implementation levels of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in the Sri Lankan Construction industry. This study will be used as a foundation for further study and exploration in the second phase; the prescription phase.

Sterling Holcomb

Electrical Engineering

Machine Learning Through Mimicry and Association

Dr. Rocio Alba-Flores

Adaptability is a key missing feature that has impeded the growth of assistive robotics. In the traditional model, all actions must be explicitly coded by a skilled programmer familiar with the hardware. This project explores a method of teaching a webcam-equipped, arm-type robot new motions using visual demonstrations.

11:00AM - 12:00PM

ROOM 2905

Giselle Devot

Communication Studies

Pursuit of Conflict: A Training and Development Packet for Conflict Management

Dr. Abby Brooks

The purpose of this Training and Development Packet (TDP) is to explicate the concept of conflict management and gender communication in the workplace. The goal of this TDP is to recognize the need to understand complexities of human communication and to ultimately cultivate a conducive environment that enriches the organizational culture and productivity.

Kate Lawrence

Public Relations

The Media's Portrayal of the Measles Outbreak

Dr. Michelle Groover

This thesis project examines how social media was used during the measles outbreak from February 2015-April 2015. This content analysis research project will examine social media, specifically Twitter and Facebook, on the basis of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

11:00AM - 12:00PM

ROOM 2908

Erica Teilhaber

Recreation

Perceptions of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities on Experiences at a Weeklong Camp

Dr. Brent Wolfe

This study was conducted to understand the perceptions of a weeklong camp experience for adults with intellectual disabilities. A survey was administered to campers asking questions pertaining to the conceptual, social, and practical domains. Additionally, researchers sent a member check survey. Results showed positive feedback and convey participants perceived improvements.

Madison Monk

Recreation

Measuring Perceptions in Quality of Life After Camp

Dr. Brent Wolfe

This study explores how a camp environment can impact adults' with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) perceptions of quality of life through providing opportunities to participate in recreation activities and socialize with other campers. Study findings suggest that the camp experience does positively impact perceptions of quality of life for adults with I/DD.

Sarah Holmes

Psychology

The Effect of Media on Self-Objectification and Gender-Role Conflict in College Students

Dr. Shauna Joye

This study examined the effect that objectified images of women can have on women's self-objectification and men's gender-role conflict. Overall, women were more likely to self-objectify than men, and men experienced more gender-role conflict. Additionally, men experienced higher gender-role conflict in relation to success, power, and competition after viewing images with low objectification.

11:00AM - 12:00PM

ROOM 2911

Alexis Davison

History

Shaping the Public Mind: Edward Bernays and the Rise of Public Relations

Dr. Craig Roell

Edward Bernays, nephew of Sigmund Freud, used his uncle's ideas to pave the way for modern public relations and alter everything in our life. His ideas influenced the American breakfast, women's "decision" to smoke, the overthrow of the Guatemalan government, and the rise of Nazi Germany.

Markus Cotton

History

Typical Bavarian Soldiers?

Dr. Brian Feltman

This thesis focuses on Eduard Husslein and Urban Weigand, who were two Bavarian farmers called up for military service in 1914. The introduction provides background information on both of the men, including how they lived and their family life at the time of war. The first and second chapters discuss the impact of the outbreak of war on their hometown and their specific involvement in the war, while the third chapter discusses demobilization and how it affected their return home. This thesis recreates the story of two typical Bavarian soldiers whose story had been lost over the generations.

William Wilson

History

The Orthodox Betrayal: How German Christians Embraced and Taught Nazism and Sparked a Christian Battle

Dr. Brian Feltman

The Deutsche Christen movement became the driving force of Nazi ideology within the Protestant church and quickly dissented from orthodox Christian theology becoming heretical. The Deutsche Christen heresy was unique to Germany and could have only been formed within the borders and historical context of the German nation. This heresy created a division within the established Protestant church. As the division grew the heretics and the orthodox members struggled for power.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

POSTER PRESENTATIONS
12:15PM - 1:15PM

1. Ashlee Charles

The Ecological Factors Impeding the Quality of Life for Medically Uninsured Women

Dr. Ashley Walker

Rising healthcare costs in the United States are creating a need to understand how a lack of healthcare coverage is decreasing women's quality of life and leading to negative health outcomes. Through a focus group, I aim to identify what factors impede the quality of life for medically uninsured women.

2. Riley Theis

Spectroscopic, Structural, and Energetic Analysis of Noble Gas Cations

Dr. Ryan Fortenberry

Due to the recent discovery of ArH^+ in the Crab Nebula, questions of the existence of other potential noble gas cations have arisen. The spectroscopic data of ArH_2^+ , NeH_2^+ , ArH_3^+ , NeH_3^+ , ArOH^+ and NeOH^+ have been analyzed to discover its potential existence in the Interstellar Medium.

3. Salena Neuwar

A Study on Exploring Parents' and Occupational Therapists' Views on Facilitating Social and Emotional Development

Dr. Katy Gregg

This study is looking at how parents of a child with a disability and the child's occupational therapist each facilitate social and emotional development with the child. Using the information gathered, I will look at the similarities and differences of facilitation among occupational therapists and the parents. Then I will look to make inferences at strategies that could be used in communication between the parent and occupational therapist as well as individually to better serve the child with a disability.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

4. Abbey Greer, Ben Martin, Julia Cote, Sidney Billingsly, and Bailey Adcock

Diverse Applications of Animal Assisted Therapy

Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer

The benefits of animal-assisted therapy (AAT) cross fields and reach many different populations. We compiled research on the different populations that AAT caters to and the animals that AAT utilizes.

5. Lacey Dennis

Effect of Static Stretching on Pennation Angle and Muscle Power Production of the Gastrocnemius

Dr. Daniel Czech and Dr. Li Li

The purpose is how pennation angle is affected by stretching in the gastrocnemius muscles. The pennation angle will be measured before and after a stretching protocol. Then muscle power production will be measured after pennation angle. I hypothesize an increased pennation angle will be accompanied with less muscle power production.

6. Mackenzie Payne

Temporal, Spatial, And Age Distributions Of White-Tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, Killed On Bulloch County Roadways

Dr. Edward B. Mondor

White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are native to the state of Georgia. As there are over 1.2 million individual animals in the state, they are implicated in a large number of motor vehicle accidents (ca. 1 million) each year. It is currently unknown, however, if deer are more likely to be killed 1) at certain times of year, 2) in particular areas, and 3) of particular age classes. We addressed these questions by collecting the remains of white-tailed deer killed in motor vehicle accidents in Bulloch County, GA. Recommendations will be made as to where additional "deer crossing" signs should be posted in the county.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

7. Diana Tyler

Reliability of Gastrocnemius Muscle- Pennation Angle Measured by Ultrasound in Standing Position

Dr. Li Li and Dr. Daniel Czech

Pennation angle has been measured using ultrasound while in a prone position. The purpose of this study is to measure pennation angle of the gastrocnemius muscle with ultrasound while in a mechanically loaded position. This research expects to show that measurements of gastrocnemius muscle pennation angle during standing are reliable.

8. Megan Mears

Developing Molecular Tools for Diagnosis of Human Ehrlichiosis

Dr. Marina Eremeeva

Ehrlichia chaffeensis and *E. ewingii* cause febrile illnesses in humans and dogs. Uncultivable *E. ewingii* displays antigenic cross-reactivity with *E. chaffeensis*. Our project is using targeted RNA baits to characterize *E. ewingii* surface protein gene homologous to the major 120 kDa (gp120) diagnostic protein antigen gene of *E. chaffeensis*.

9. Molly McLaughlin

Reliability of Pennation Angle Measured Using Ultrasound With Different Plantar Flexion Angles During Upright Position

Dr. Li Li

The purpose of this research study is to measure pennation angles of the gastrocnemius muscle using ultrasound while in an upright position, as opposed to lying in the prone position seen in previous studies. While lying may be an easier method of getting an ultrasound image the muscle is relaxed but muscle pennation angle will change during contraction, such as while standing.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

10. Cassidy Keim

Replication and Extension of a Classroom Activity using the Bogardus Social Distance Scale

Dr. Trent Maurer

This project was the first wave of a 3-year replication of Maurer's (2013) evaluation of a classroom exercise on social distance and discrimination. We hope to see more significant results in the future on how lecture affects attitudes and whether it holds a lasting effect on other targeted groups.

11. Haley Polane and Morgan Underhill

Animal Assisted Therapy in Prisons

Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer

Because of interests in the criminal justice field, our research incorporates our current studies in animal assisted therapy with our future career studies in the criminal justice field. Benefits have been proven with many populations using animal assisted therapy. We wanted to see if prisoners could benefit as well.

12. Margaret Kilpatrick

Factors Influencing Sports Participation for Individuals with Disabilities

Dr. Brent Wolfe

Research and information was examined to determine factors that may affect sports participation among individuals with disabilities. Additional examination was conducted to compare how these factors affected people with congenital and acquired disabilities. Social, personal, and environmental factors were examined along with the scope of the disability

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

13. Tony Hudson

The Beasts Within

Dr. Srobana Bhattacharya

Why are Americans more afraid of one organization that has successfully attacked the U.S., rather than the increasing lone-wolf attacks within the country? I address this issue and present examples of recent lone-wolf terrorist attacks on U.S. soil to better understand why it happens and how to counter them.

14. J. Alex Schenk

The Mobius Strip of Total Health

Dr. Shauna W. Joye

Armed with the knowledge that mental and physical health are interdependent, we aim to test various methods of positive and negative motivation to effect change in physical performance and scores on measures of depression, anxiety, and stress for students enrolled in walking classes during the summer and fall of 2016.

15. Thomas Mulkey

Social Consequences of an Integrated Set of Games

Dr. Brent Wolfe

This research discusses the social ramifications of integrating the Paralympic Games and the Olympic Games into a single set of games to determine if integration will improve the social well-being and livelihood of people with disabilities. The research addresses the positive and negative outcomes on both athletes and non-athletes.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

16. Jesse Powell and Bernadette O'Donnell

When Terror? When Just?

Erin Cleary

Our presentation will attempt to create a satisfactory definition of terrorism, as well as determine when, if ever, it is an acceptable means of ideological or social change, by reviewing historical accounts of terrorism and by consulting the literature concerned with determining its moral status.

17. Christina Morris, Meagan Moss, and Cassandra Thomasson

The Application of Animal Assisted Therapy to Mental Disorders

Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer

Animal assisted therapy is still a growing field of research with benefits applying across many different spectrums of people. This is a collection of research on the application of animal assisted therapy to individuals of all age groups with mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, and dementia.

18. Emily Deyton

Innovative Pedagogy: American Music Education Then and Now

Dr. David Langley

Historically, American music education in the public school system has been centered on innovation and growth. These philosophies remain influential today. This project attempts to delineate how early American music education continues to impact contemporary classrooms and how the methodologies of modern educators have transformed to accommodate changing student needs.

19. Jonathan Taylor

Temperature-responsive Controlled Drug Delivery Using Functionalized Nanoporous Membrane

Dr. Ji Wu

Drug delivery is an exciting research area that has gained interest in recent years due to its importance in pharmaceutical science. Here, a temperature-responsive membrane is proposed to control the delivery rate of ibuprofen. In the future, we hope to use this membrane to control the delivery of anti-addiction drugs.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

20. Kyle Leep, John Lillard, Garfield Walsh, and Haydon Lynch

Classifying Hand Gestures through Neural Networks and Electromyography

Dr. Rocio Alba-Flores

A muscle's electrical activity can be recorded by using electromyography. This activity can be analyzed with artificial neural networks to classify the activity into different hand gestures. These gestures can then be used to control computer systems such as myoelectric prosthetic hands. This process provides more natural prosthetic limb control.

21. Eva Blais

The Effect of Static Stretching on Proprioception and Decreased Muscle Power Production

Dr. Li Li and Dr. Daniel Czech

Recent studies have shown that pre-exercise static stretching negatively affects performance. However, why this happens is unknown. This study will explore how stretching alters proprioception and therefore muscle power production. Using the Biodex, passive and active re-positioning will determine proprioception in the ankle joint. This will provide an explanation of why stretching affects muscle power production because of altered proprioception.

22. Taylor Hartley, Victoria Liggett, and Hollie Bryan

Animal Assisted Intervention and Children with Autism

Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer

This project is consolidation of research from around the world on how the use of animal assisted activities affects the behaviors and overall quality of life in children with autism spectrum disorder.

23. Bailey Kirk, Emily Pressler, Julia Thomas, and Alex Nicholson

Project Pura Vida

Dra. Leticia McGrath

Our poster presentation focuses on the history and ongoing transformation of La Carpio, a shanty town founded by Nicaraguan immigrants to Costa Rica where more than 40,000 people live in abject poverty. It will be based on our research and our firsthand experiences on the Honors Project Pura Vida Trip.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

24. Kolyse Wagstaff

The Effect of Stretching the Gastrocnemius on Electromechanical Delay and Decreased Muscle Power Production

Dr. Li Li and Dr. Daniel Czech

Static stretching muscles before athletic events decreases muscle power produced. EMD is the delay between muscle stimulation and force. The purpose is to determine if the decrease in force production is due to longer EMD. Participants will jump on force plates recording force and EMD, testing power produced by the gastrocnemius, with and without stretching.

25. Ashlyn Avera

How Do We Teach Emotion?

Dr. Nancy L. Malcom

This study looks at movies to see if the messages shown to children about sadness have changed over time. This research compares *The Lion King* and *Beauty and the Beast* to *Big Hero 6* and *Inside Out*. Findings reveal that we have changed the way we teach children about sadness.

26. Morgan Gallahue, Martha Braselton, and Abigail Slattery

Race & Place

Dr. Francis Desiderio

Our poster shows the relationship between the past and present conditions concerning race and economics in the city of Statesboro. We want to examine the history of racial segregation, the process of desegregation, present day economic situations, and housing practices.

27. Marian Trainor, Kassie Bohannon, Michael Edwards, and Travis Anderson

Georgia Southern's Physical History and its Lasting Effects

Dr. Francis Desiderio

This is an examination of the historic architecture currently present on the Georgia Southern University campus, how the buildings have changed over time, the effects they have on the Georgia Southern campus, and ultimately if these effects promote traditional gender roles or stereotypes in any tangible way.

12:15PM - 1:15PM

BALLROOM

28. Brady Gwynn and Paige Peterson

What Stood the Test of Time

Dr. Francis Desiderio

Statesboro was founded in 1803 and with its establishment came landmarks. This project will examine six landmarks: New Hope Methodist Church, Beaver House, First Baptist Church, Bank of Statesboro, Upper Black Tree Church, and the Old Walnut Tree. We will also examine the power memories hold within a city's history.

29. Mitchell Mayes, Sophia Fleri, Bethany Johnson, and Rebeca Gonzalez

The Devolution and Evolution of Downtown Statesboro

Dr. Francis Desiderio

Downtowns historically have been the central hub of economic and social activity. Statesboro's downtown has struggled since the introduction of the bypass and the resulting shift in business locations. We will discuss this shift, and newly proposed responses to it, as well as Georgia Southern's role in revitalization.

30. Elizabeth Leone, Brandon Sellers, and Reagan Hicks

Statesboro: Not Just a College Town

Dr. Francis Desiderio

Statesboro often has been defined in terms set by Georgia Southern. However, it is a place containing a rich culture in art, stemming from the region's musical history. We will focus on the role of culture found in the Averitt Center of the Arts, various local businesses, and the university.

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ROOM 2903

Jasmine Smith

Accounting Information Systems: Ethics, Fraudulent Behavior, and Preventative Measures

Information Systems

Dr. Thomas Case

The evolution of information technology within financial and accounting processes has brought new ethical issues, forms of fraudulent behavior, and mechanisms to prevent compromising confidential, sensitive, and personal information. This investigation focuses on the evolution of accounting information systems and their controls for limiting misconduct in financial and accounting processes.

Yolande Neil

Web Scraping the Easy Way

Information Systems

Dr. John N. Dyer

Web scraping mimics human web surfing behavior by pointing to a website and collecting large amounts of data that would be difficult for humans to extract. This paper demonstrates web scraping using a program named Data Toolbar to expose academicians, students, and practitioners to its concept and necessity.

Zachary Davidson

Connecting the Business to IT Operations: The Coca-Cola Company

Computer Science

Dr. Andrew Allen

There is currently a disconnect between the business and IT operations at The Coca-Cola Company. This project addressed this issue and produced a potential solution using Machine-Generated Data for The Command Center Services Team specifically for IT Job Scheduling.

SESSION 2

THESIS PRESENTATIONS 1:30PM - 2:30PM

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ROOM 2904

James “Ronney” Miller III

Mechanical Engineering

Scalability of Microscale Fractal-Like Branching Channel Networks

Dr. David Calamas

Fractal-like branching networks have been shown to reduce pressure drops and be more efficient at the microscale. The ability to scale these results up to the macroscale was tested and confirmed by comparing the Euler number to the position of the fluid in the flow network.

Stone Williford

Mechanical Engineering

Dynamic Simulation and Analysis of FSAE Racer for Development of Stability Control System

Dr. Aniruddha Mitra

A computer model of an FSAE racer was developed to research stability under dynamic conditions. With this model of the car, roll and pitch data and traction were collected. The goal is to understand how to counteract vehicle movements and traction loss, and will help develop a self-adjusting suspension.

Valerie Welty

Mathematics

Mathematical Models for Infectious Disease Transmission with Stochastic Simulation of Measles Outbreaks

Dr. Patricia Humphrey

The mathematical study of infectious disease provides important results to guide public health policy. Critical vaccination thresholds and models for infectious disease spread are presented and studied through a probabilistic simulation of measles outbreaks. The simulation makes use of a proposition we have made for varying contact rates called self-quarantine.

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ROOM 2905

Allison Mueller

Art

Southern Steam Prints: Large Scale Reductive Printmaking

Prof. Patricia Carter

Southern Steam Prints will be a steamroller printmaking event that will broaden my professional portfolio and teach valuable skills for the kinds of events that artists plan and participate in the professional world. My event will also create an exhibition of work that demonstrates community involvement and fine art mastery.

Kristen Flippo

Writing & Linguistics

Hans Christian Andersen: Retellings of Fairytales

Prof. Jared Yates Sexton

This work includes retellings of Hans Christian Andersen’s original fairytales. It explores the darker emotions not usually expressed through modern retellings of Andersen’s work.

Michael Conner

Writing & Linguistics

Reformation

Prof. Jared Yates Sexton and Dr. Lisa Costello

This is a novel grounded in the restoration of a country through mandated use of pharmaceutical drugs in humanity’s increasingly fervent desire for unattainable perfection at the expense of emotional and physical stature. *Reformation* explores the far-reaching consequences of everyday human decisions and their collective development into a dystopian society.

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ROOM 2908

Maximilian Fey

Working Memory and Cued Recall

Dr. Karen Naufel

The present study examined the extent to which cues, which varied in relevance to the recall task and imageability, affect one's recall ability in relation to working memory. The results showed that there was no difference between an individual's ability to recall and their working memory scores. However, the ambiguous cue condition recalled significantly more non-target memories.

Psychology

Justin Kemple

Psychology and Criminal Justice

The Relationships between Psychopathy, Empathy, and Everyday Moral Decision Making in an Undergraduate Sample

Dr. Amy Hackney

Psychopathy is a personality disorder characterized by low levels of interpersonal manipulation and empathy. The current study examined the relationships between psychopathy, empathy, and everyday moral decision making. Results showed that psychopathy was strongly related to lower feelings of guilt and lower feelings of empathy during moral decision making.

Kelsey Pierson

Psychology and Spanish

The Effects of Rape Myths and Expert Testimony on Juror Decision Making in a Sexual Assault Case

Dr. Amy Hackney

The purpose of the current research was to assess rape myths regarding the timing of reporting a sexual assault to the police. We also investigated whether expert testimony that debunked such myths affected juror judgments regarding victim and defendant credibility and judgments of guilt.

1:30PM - 2:30PM

ROOM 2911

Andrew Smallwood

Who's in Charge of Whom? A Study into the Deference Paid By Federal Court Judges to Executive Agencies

Dr. Brett Curry

In this examination of judicial deference paid by the judges of the U.S Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit towards executive agencies, I argue that as judicial tenure increases, the likelihood of a judge offering deference towards the EPA or NLRB decreases.

Political Science

Ashleigh Rasheed

Impacts of Prisons in Rural Communities: Economic and Social Factors

Dr. Joshua Kennedy

What are the economic impacts associated with prisons? What effects do stigmas associated with prisons have on the residents living in the community? I argue that prisons provide a short term economic gain for rural communities by providing jobs, thus boosting the economy.

Political Science

Seroyah Williams

Police and Gangs Comparison

Dr. Adam Bossler

Police have been said to be the largest gang in America with badges. With recent events occurring throughout the United States, including police shootings of unarmed citizens, some may say that the police have shown various characteristics similar to those of gangs. Does the public also view officers, in general, in the same perspective?

Justice Studies

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 2903

Nathan Hayenga

Finance and Economics

The Effect of Doctors without Borders on Low- and Middle-Income Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

Dr. Bill Yang

This research studies the relationship between the activity of medical disaster-response humanitarian aid and the rate of growth in developing economies. Analysis revealed both conclusive and inconclusive results about the effectiveness of Doctors Without Borders as a form of international investment and about the disasters they respond to.

Trevor Camper

Finance and Economics

Catch 22: Perceived Issues with Quantitative Easing and the Asset Purchase Mechanism

Dr. Bill Yang

Quantitative Easing, an unusual monetary policy, was used by the countries of the US, Japan, and the European Union. Since the use of this policy, these countries have had difficulty re-stabilizing their economies. This study intends to show that the policy can have diminishing and contractionary economic effects.

SESSION 3

THESIS PRESENTATIONS
2:45PM - 3:45PM

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 2904

Sarah Roessler

Chemistry

Incorporation of TEMPO and PEG Functionalities into ROMP Polymers via Click Reaction

Dr. Hans J. Schanz

This research is on the development of ROMP polymers containing the functional groups TEMPO and PEG. The polymers when bonded to cell-free hemoglobin may be useful for the treatment of severe traumatic brain injuries as they convert the reactive oxygen species (ROS).

Audrey Scholz

Chemistry

Bio-Based Composites for Tissue Engineering from Tung Oil and Collagen

Dr. Rafael Quirino

Collagen has been added to a tung oil-based thermosetting resin in order to enhance its thermo-mechanical properties. The samples prepared were characterized by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA). Improvements in composites' properties were observed with increasing amounts of collagen.

Shelby Scherer

Chemistry

Exploring the Relationship of MBD1 Protein Binding CpG Sites of Methylated DNA

Dr. Amanda Stewart

Methylated DNA binding (MBD) proteins control transcriptional regulation by binding methylated DNA, silencing tumor suppressing proteins. By exploring structure/function relationships of MBD proteins, peptides that bind methylated DNA specifically can be synthesized. Initial structural and binding studies with the original MBD1 binding region will be reported as potential therapeutics.

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 2905

Carmen Gray

English

Re-Presenting the Past: Valuing Perspective and the Plural Nature of Truth in the Historical Poems of Rita Dove

Dr. Joe Pellegrino

Exploring perspective and the relative nature of truth by examining the intersection of personal history and larger historical events through the poetry of Rita Dove.

Lydia Biggs

English

The Odes Project

Dr. Joe Pellegrino

An important step for education is to grow with technology. The Odes Project is meant to combine teaching with technology through an exploratory website. It presents six of Keats' most famous poems, the "Great Odes," as a better way to teach students how to interpret poetry.

McKinley May

English

Continuity in Color: The Persistence of Symbolic Meaning in Myths, Tales, and Tropes

Dr. Joe Pellegrino

This presentation examines the symbolism of the colors black, white, and red from ancient times to modern. It explores ancient myths, the Grimm canon of fairy tales, and modern film and television tropes in order to establish the continuity of certain symbolisms through time.

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 2908

Connor Ondrizek

Psychology

The Effects of Alcohol-Related Stimuli Priming on the Expression of Relational Aggression

Dr. Jessica Brooks

There is a link between aggressive behaviors and alcohol. Alcohol expectancies contribute to problematic drinking. Alcohol expectancies of participants were assessed, and participants were randomly assigned to control or alcohol priming conditions. There was a significant difference between those primed with alcohol stimuli and those with control stimuli on hostility ratings.

Kelly E. Daniel

Psychology

The Effect of Peer Presence on Adolescent Risk-Taking Behaviors

Dr. Ty W. Boyer

Research suggests peer presence increases adolescent risk-taking. This study examined this effect by implementing a virtual peer condition and manipulating perceived experimenter expectancies. Undergraduate participants in peer and virtual peer conditions took more risks than those in an alone condition, but only when the experimenter conveyed a risk-seeking expectancy.

Robin Lane

Psychology and Art

Schadenfreude, the Dark Triad, and the Effect of Music on Emotion

Dr. Ty W. Boyer

Schadenfreude is a humorous response to others' misfortunes. In the present study we ask, does schadenfreude vary with Dark Triad personality traits (narcissism, Machiavellianism, and psychopathy) or the musical score that accompanies stimuli? The results indicated a relation between schadenfreude and psychopathy and an interaction between stimuli and musical score.

2:45PM - 3:45PM

ROOM 2911

Joel Shafer

Sociology

Human Trafficking: Exploration of Best Practices for Restoration and Integration for Survivors in Southeastern United States

Dr. April Schueths

Domestic human trafficking, especially of minors, has become a serious though hidden issue in the United States. Organizations exist, however, that initiate care and reintegration for survivors. Through the perspectives of service providers, this exploratory qualitative study examines the factors of vulnerability and the best practices when caring for survivors.

Morgan Podczervinski

Political Science

Human Trafficking: Legislation and Extent

Dr. Courtney Burns

How would reducing the restrictions of the T-visa as well as legalizing prostitution impact the overall rate of sex trafficking in the U.S.? I argue that the restrictions on T-visas limit victims' access to resources and that the legalization of prostitution increases rates of sex trafficking.

Xavieria Jeffers

Political Science and History

The Persistence of the Welfare State: A Comparative Analysis

Dr. Jamie Scalera

The welfare state is a component of many government systems in which the government provides social services to the citizens of a nation. I argue that the welfare state has become institutionalized in economies and governments around the world making it impossible for governments to remove the welfare state.

4:00PM - 5:00PM

ROOM 2903

Austin Glover

Accounting

Publishing in the Top Journals: A Cross-Disciplinary Study

Dr. Lowell Mooney and Dr. Axel Grossmann

The purpose of this research is to determine the probability that faculty will publish in the top journals in their respective fields, and if the probability of publishing in those top journals is equally likely across accounting, finance, and management disciplines.

Laura Elizabeth Willimon

Accounting

The Evolution of the Annual Report to Shareholders

Dr. Britton McKay

This study examines the evolution of the annual report to shareholders between 2005 and 2014. I examined several elective elements of annual reports, specifically looking at sustainability, interactive interface, and length as it changed year to year. Additionally, I examined changes in independent auditor and classified companies according to GICS sectors.

Mikaela Shupp

Business Management and Spanish

A Human Resource Approach to Improving an Alternative Break Experience

Dr. Trey Denton and Katy Kaesebier

An exploratory study that examines the selection processes of seven unique alternative break (AB) programs. The objective is to identify characteristics that maximize the development of students and the impact of AB programs. Analysis of the processes is used to revise the selection process for Georgia Southern University's AB program.

SESSION 4

THESIS PRESENTATIONS 4:00PM - 5:00PM

4:00PM - 5:00PM

ROOM 2904

Brittany Smith

Sodium Indicator in Embryonic Systems

Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane

The main aim of this study was to identify a method in which we could visualize the distribution of sodium ions in vivo. We designed an experiment in which zebrafish embryos were stained with a green-fluorescent sodium indicator. Embryos were then visualized and analyzed for sodium distribution levels throughout the body.

Biology

Shauntell Luke

The Role of ITGA6 on Tumor Progression

Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane

Cancer treatment strategies are limited, because they are nonspecific and cannot cure cancer. In order to develop a cure, examination of the tumor microenvironment is essential. Upregulation and downregulation of ITGA6, as well as an in vivo cleaving mechanism was studied to determine its role on tumor progression.

Biology

Danielle Turner

An Industrial Chemical Used in Coal-Washing Influences Plankton Communities in Freshwater Microcosms

Dr. Risa Cohen

A chemical used to wash coal, 4-Methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM), has potential to adversely affect microscopic plants and animals (plankton) at low concentrations. Freshwater plankton communities were exposed to MCHM for two weeks under greenhouse conditions. The resulting decrease in abundance of plankton groups suggests MCHM alters food availability to fish.

Biology

Scott Oswald

When the Leaves Fall: Modeling Seasonal Variation of Litter Flux in an Urban Forest

Dr. José Checo Colón-Gaud

Using a small set of litter flux data collected at Herty Pines, I explore the seasonal variation in forest litter flux rates. To describe the observed patterns in the data, I discuss using a statistical model to describe and predict future litter flux rates as well as other potential applications.

Biology

4:00PM - 5:00PM

ROOM 2905

Jessica Davis

Co-Teaching: Creating Differences in Teachers' Professional Identities

Dr. Yasar Bodur and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

This research examined the differences in the professional identities of general educators and special educators in the co-taught classroom. Participants were asked to select from three metaphorical picture choices (a conductor, a gardener, and a juggler) in order to categorize their role identity in the classroom.

Early Childhood Education

Kirsten Brodmann

Teacher Attitudes toward Latin Instruction at the Elementary Level

Dr. Yasar Bodur

The purpose of this study was to identify teacher attitudes toward Latin language instruction at the elementary level. Participants were questioned about their experience of Latin and observations of Latin's effects on other content areas. This study benefits educators interested in teaching Latin in an elementary level classroom.

Early Childhood Education

Meredith Eby

Integrating Reading into Mathematics Instruction

Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson and Dr. Yasar Bodur

This study aimed to explore how teachers describe the relationship between mathematics and literacy skills, and to explore specific methods teachers used to accommodate low-level readers in their instruction. The researchers used a qualitative design to understand how teachers used literacy and accommodations for low-level readers in their mathematics classroom.

Early Childhood Education

4:00PM - 5:00PM

ROOM 2908

Brianna Carter

Health Education and Promotion

Association of Religious Commitment with Perceived Stress Levels in College Students

Dr. Ashley Walker

College students report a higher level of stress related to daily functioning. Previous studies suggest that religion can be used as a coping resource. Utilizing the Transactional Theory of Stress and Coping, this study examined the association between religious commitment and perceived stress levels in undergraduate college students.

Kaitlyn Carmichael

Exercise Science

An Examination of Happiness between Race, Gender, and School Classification: An Echo Boomer Analysis

Dr. Daniel Czech

Subjective well-being is often evaluated by happiness within specific domains. Results of previous studies may not translate to younger generations due to a lack of relevancy. The purpose of this study is to examine subjective happiness across race, gender, and school classification among college students without the focus on domains.

Asha Stegall

Exercise Science

Quantitative Study: Comparing the On and Off Field Anxiety Levels of Athletes and Non-Athletes

Dr. Daniel Czech

The purpose of this study was to compare anxiety levels among collegiate basketball players and intramural athletes at Georgia Southern. This research looks at two different forms of anxiety: State Anxiety and Trait Anxiety. The results of this study can be helpful in understanding reasons of choking on and off the field.

4:00PM - 5:00PM

ROOM 2911

Megan Bright

International Studies

Faces of Immigration: The American Dream is Not Dead

Dr. Darin Van Tassell

This thesis looks at the United States' immigration policy through featuring three people from Middle Eastern countries who are linked to the immigration process. These stories give insight into the immigration process of the US and the adjustment of Arab immigrants to life in America in a post-9/11 world.

Jessica Shanken

International Studies

Creating Peace in Our Communities: An Analysis of Community Reconciliation Techniques

Dr. Darin Van Tassell

This study surveyed college students before and after a forum on race to determine any impact it had on the opinions of attendees regarding race in their communities. An ideal model for intergroup dialogue was created based on the survey results, participant observation, and previous research.

Kimberly Rudolph

International Studies

The Importance of Music Festivals: An Unanticipated and Underappreciated Path to Identity Formation

Dr. Darin Van Tassell

The purpose of this study is to understand and explain the growing popularity of music festivals around the world, through qualitative and quantitative research. Studying these mega events reveals the human desire to belong, and that music, as a global language, leads to not only creating communities within music festivals, but nations.



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