Spring 2014

Honors Research Symposium Program [Spring 2014]

University Honors Program Students and Staff

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2014 Honors Research Symposium
Nessmith-Lane Conference Center
Georgia Southern University

Schedule

Reception and Poster Presentations 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm
Nessmith-Lane Ballroom

Welcome 12:30 pm
Dr. Steve Engel
Director, University Honors Program
Dr. Jean Bartels
Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Thesis/Capstone Presentations 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Nessmith-Lane 2nd floor classrooms

Session I 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Session II 2:45 pm - 3:45 pm
Session III 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Welcome
Welcome to the Seventh 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 75 honors students will present their work, bringing the total number of participants to over 400 since 2008. The symposium program falls into two main components:

The Poster Presentation Session is designed for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. They 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 the juniors who are, in most cases, just launching their thesis research projects.

The Thesis/Capstone 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 at Georgia Southern. Also listed in the 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.

Enjoy the Symposium
Please silence cell phones and do not text during sessions in order to give full attention to all 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.
1. Cameron Feriante  
**TEMPO-Functionalized ROMP Polymers as a Component for the Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injuries**  
**Dr. Hans-Joerg Schanz**  
TEMPO, an organic nitroxide radical has long been known for its antioxidant capability. The research focuses on the synthesis of TEMPO-functionalized monomers and polymers as a component for a polyethylene glycol and TEMPO functionalized copolymer intended to modify oxygen carrying cell-free hemoglobin into an effective treatment for traumatic brain injuries.

2. Ashley Johns  
**Asolectin from Soybeans as a Natural Compatibilizer for Cellulose-reinforced Biocomposites from Tung Oil**  
**Dr. Rafael Quirino**  
The free radical copolymerization of tung oil, divinylbenzene, asolectin and butyl methacrylate with cellulose reinforcement results in bio-based thermosetting polymers with tunable properties, according to all comonomer concentrations. An evaluation of the bio-based system has been conducted by DEA, and final biocomposites have been characterized by DSC, TGA, and DMA.

3. Kori S. Williams  
**Molecular and Cellular Analysis of Zebrafish Neural Development**  
**Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane**  
Neurodevelopmental disorders require further investigation since much is known about behavioral characteristics but not cellular and molecular interactions. Using zebrafish embryos as a vertebrate model, Myosin 10 and Topoisomerase 3B are analyzed in hopes of understanding the roles each protein plays in neural circuit development and translating to human application.

4. Kayla Smith  
**Zebrafish Larvae: A Model for Human Cerebrovascular Disease**  
**Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane**  
The purpose of our project is to understand the cellular and molecular factors that contribute to human cerebrovascular disease. Specifically, our focus is the cell-communication molecule integrin α6 (itgα6) and its role in the formation of stroke, a cerebrovascular disease.

5. Kaitlyn Hanley  
**Population Biology of the Gopher Tortoise: Reproduction and Survivorship in a Longterm Study**  
**Dr. David Rostal**  
The gopher tortoise, *Gopherus polyphymus*, is an important species in the sandhill habitats with two major populations at Fort Stewart Army Reserve and George L. Smith State park. This project focuses on the assessment of survivorship, reproduction and success of the two populations and their dependency on management by fire.

6. Andrew Robertson  
**Optical Fiber Degradation Monitoring**  
**Dr. Rami Haddad**  
The increase in demand of higher bandwidth fiber optic networks leads to an increase in the sensitivity to optical fiber impairments such as chromatic dispersion. We aim to develop a technique to monitor chromatic dispersion using the relative distributions of both the high and low bits.

7. Mike Ofili  
**Effects of Shear Ties on Composite and Non-Composite FICSPs**  
**Dr. Junsuk Kang**  
The presentation will outline the effects of shear ties and XPS on non-composite and composite foam insulated concrete sandwich panels (FICSP). ABAQUS was used to run finite element analyses to yield our test results.
8. Shannon Griffin and Katie Phillips  
The Psychology Behind Aging in Place and the Relevancy to Emerging Designers  
Patricia Walton  
The concept of Aging in Place is more relevant now than ever as the Baby Boomer generation struggles to balance age and independence. There are few homes that meet the needs of this important population, and it represents a major issue for emerging and current designers.

9. Loren Haynes  
Lighting Design for Fuddy Meers Produced at Georgia Southern 2014  
Kelly Berry  
Fuddy Meers is a dark humorous play written by David Lindsay-Abaire and performed by the Georgia Southern Theatre Department in the Spring of 2014. The lighting design incorporated geometric shapes, textures, and differing intensities of light to portray the world and atmosphere of the play.

10. Carolina Perez  
Le Tombeau de Couperin  
The poster will cover all six movements of Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin and their importance. I will present how Ravel was able to maintain a unique manner in composition while still remaining true to the past traditions making him not only an impressionist composer but a neoclassicist as well.

11. Laura Smith  
Dotted Lines: Small Town Mentality and Class Conflicts in Fiction  
Jared Sexton and Dr. Lisa Costello  
My Capstone Project is a series of linked short stories focusing on the phenomenon of “white flight” and small town mentality in the Southeast. When a violent theft upturns the town, the implications of race, class, and gender are examined through several characters associated with the crime.

12. Beth Martin  
The Scars We Choose: A Retelling  
Dr. Lisa Costello and Dr. Sarah Domet  
“Are we made up of the stories we tell?” is the question underlining the theory of narrative-as-identity. The Scars We Choose explores this theory in a creative retelling of the Hawaiian epic of Pele and Hi‘iaka set during World War II.

13. E. Feagin Oliver  
Patriarchy of Words: Gender and Language in Beckett's "First Love"  
This project presents close reading and analysis of Samuel Beckett’s short story “First Love.” The research and paper focus on the use of gendered language in establishing a linguistic system of patriarchy examining the binary system which establishes the marginalized other, essentializes woman as physical, and commodifies the feminized subject.

14. Aaron Wortham  
Occupy Jerusalem  
Throughout the Biblical narrative the Hebrew prophets present a subversive challenge to the conventions of the state and the social status quo by speaking out for the marginalized and the other.

15. James Devlin  
Work in Progress  
Jared Sexton  
My poster will represent my Honors Thesis which is a collection of first person fiction stories from the perspectives of a struggling family. It will focus around the father, mother, son, and aunt. My stories will be backed by several writing theorists and inspirational creative writers.

16. Amber Porter  
Casting a Light: Interviews and Insight into the Hindu Caste System  
Dr. Darin Van Tassell  
What is life like for a student in each caste of the Hindu Caste System in this day and age? Through a series of interviews with five university students, one from each stratification, this question will be investigated.

17. Kyle Morgan  
Unwelcome Guests  
Dr. Darin Van Tassell  
My poster includes a summary of various species threatening the southeast and brief descriptions of current efforts to control or eradicate them.
18. Megan Mears, John Edgar, Isabel Moran, and William Bruss  
Animal Assisted Therapy and Mental Health  
Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Trent Maurer  
The focus of our research project was to gather and analyze primary research in order to have a global perspective of how mental health is treated with animal assisted therapy.

19. Meredith Eby, Allee Murray, and Bryant Brumbill  
Animal-Assisted Therapy with Illness and Disabilities  
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Jerri Kropp  
This semester, we have studied animal-assisted therapy in a global perspective, specifically with regard to illness and disabilities. Although a relatively narrow field, animal-assisted therapy is emerging as a valid therapy technique in all aspects of life, specifically within the psychological and medical fields.

Diverse Applications of Animal Assisted Therapy  
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Jerri Kropp  
This is a presentation about the many different ways that animal assisted therapy is used and applied, and how these uses and applications can affect different aspects of people’s lives in many different cultures and societies.

21. Helen Barrett  
Blogging about Service-Learning Experiences  
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Jerri Kropp  
This project examines an Honors First-Year Experience course, Animal-Assisted Therapy. From Fall 2012 to Spring 2013, students participated in service-learning activities with therapy animals and blogged about their experiences. A Grounded Theory approach to qualitative analysis revealed that students could identify how therapy animals enhance human rehabilitation and development.

22. Kyle Mahoney  
Exploring Student Commitment to Use Peer Advice  
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Delena Gatch  
This study explored the relationship between students’ performances in physics and child and family development classes and the advice those students received from former students on how to succeed in each course. The responses from the control and experimental groups were compared to determine the effects of students receiving “Strategies for Success.”

23. Shelby Herrin  
Application of Heritage Tourism Development Practices in Jenkins County, Georgia  
Dr. James D. Bigley  
This research will apply Gunn’s Tourism Planning principles in the formation of a tourism development plan for Jenkins County, Georgia based on the region’s Civil War and Rural South themes.

24. Nicholas Wood  
A Qualitative Examination of Optimal Physical Therapist Professional Traits – An Exploratory Investigation  
Dr. Daniel Czech  
This study uses a qualitative approach to describe optimal qualities necessary for a successful physical therapy practice. In addition, this study aims to determine if therapists practicing in a rural community describe different qualities than therapists practicing in a metropolitan area.

25. Joe Blackmore  
An Examination of Optimal Characteristics in NCAA Division I Strength and Conditioning Coaches: A Qualitative Analysis  
Dr. Daniel Czech  
There have been qualitative studies that analyze the job responsibilities of a Division I strength and conditioning coach (SCC). However, there is little research on the optimal behavioral/personality characteristics required for the role. The purpose of this study is to understand the behavioral/personality characteristics present among top level SCC.
**SESSION I:**
**THESIS/CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS**
**1:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**ROOM 2911**

**Mallory Taylor | Multimedia Communication**
*Inside-Out: Reexamining Stereotypes from Behind Bars, a Documentary*
**Dr. Brian Graves**
The mass media is a business, and violence will always be a big seller. This documentary aims to show problems this overemphasis on violence creates. The Inside-Out Program is presented as a way to counteract stereotypes, because it allows college students a chance to meet incarcerated men and women.

**Cydnee Jones | Graphic Design**
*Bringing Design to Life: Three-Dimensional Graphic Design*
**Edward Rushton**
For most people, graphic design is seen as a two-dimensional medium. I have challenged this preconception by creating a design that incorporates both two-dimensional and three-dimensional elements. This work also highlights the importance of environmental sustainability. The design was created with scavenged cardboard and utilizes photography and digital design techniques.

**Paola Robelo | Graphic Design**
*Zoom in to the Layers of Graphic Design*
**Edward Rushton**
Graphic design is similar to language. It is a way of communication that retains its own cultural characteristics as it shares similar design's aesthetics. This research addresses the impact of culture in graphic design and identifies the patterns, colors, imagery, and common elements found and used in different cultures.

**ROOM 2901**

**Brittany Partridge | History and Modern Languages**
*Georgia Women and Their Struggle for the Vote*
**Dr. Anastatia Sims**
Despite the 19th amendment, Georgia and Mississippi did not allow women to cast a ballot in the 1920 election. Through examining the most prominent religion in these states, the Southern Baptist church, I explore connections between the beliefs and culture of the South, and how these played an important role in the obstacles women faced.

**Summer Fields | History**
*Rudolph Höss: The Man Behind Auschwitz*
**Dr. Brian K. Feltman**
This thesis focuses on Rudolph Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz from May 1940 to November 1943, and seeks to contribute to the research on perpetrators of the Holocaust by examining Höss’ diaries, trial transcripts, and Holocaust survivor memoirs to determine whether Höss may be appropriately labeled a “desk killer.”

**Mattie Raiford | Spanish and Biology**
*The Role of the Catholic Church during and after the Spanish Civil War*
**Dr. Leticia McGrath**
The paper analyzed the three major roles of the Catholic Church during and after the Spanish Civil War as seen through film and literature. The role of the Church was studied as seen by the Republicans, the Fascists, and the Catholic Church itself.
Juan Diego Guevara Pinto | Psychology
Effects of Perceptual Fluency on Reasoning and Pupil Dilation
Dr. Ty W. Boyer
The current study expands the research methodology of perceptual fluency by adding a physiological correlate, pupillometry. Pupillary reflexes have been extensively noted to be a valid index of cognitive effort. Measuring differences in pupil dilation while participants process perceptual demanding stimuli can provide a better understanding of the effects that processing fluency has on reasoning.

Brittany Woods | Psychology
The Effects of Moderate-Intensity Acute Aerobic Exercise on Self-Disclosure
Dr. Janice Steirn
This study sought to determine whether a relationship exists between acute aerobic exercise, at moderate intensity, and self-disclosure due to a positive change in affect.

Briana Green | Psychology
Self-Perceived Mate Value: Literature Review and Proposed Experiment Design
Dr. Daniel Webster
Think about the last person you dated, what was it that initially drew you to that person? This study explores the methods used to measure self-perceived mate value, the value people place on themselves regarding the characteristics or qualities they are able to offer to a potential mate.

Alexa Lowery | Early Childhood Education
Teachers’ Perceptions of Scripted Education
Dr. Lina Soares
The purpose of my study was to investigate teachers’ perceptions of scripted techniques using state mandated standards and their impact on student performance. I surveyed teachers of elementary schools and found most are not using the standards as they were originally intended, and they feel that students are falling behind.

Katherine Dammeyer | Child and Family Development
Does Service-Learning Enhance College Students’ Knowledge and Understanding of Course Content?
Dr. Jerri Kropp
Data was collected in 2011 and 2012 on student’s participation in service-learning and their attitudes toward their experience. Over 25 students each year were studied at Stirrup Some Fun, Ronald McDonald House, Camp Twin Lakes, or Make-a-wish. Examining their attitudes found that students rated their service-learning experience as a positive experience.

Caroline Greene | Child and Family Development
College Students’ Attitudes Towards Adults with Developmental Disabilities: Does Direct Contact Make a Difference?
Dr. Jerri Kropp and Dr. Brent Wolfe
Participants served as counselors at a camp for adults with developmental disabilities. A questionnaire regarding attitudes towards this population was administered before and after camp and also to a control group. Participants also kept a journal throughout the week. Did direct contact make a difference in attitudes towards adults with developmental disabilities?
**Shannon Rhodes | Chemistry**
Detection of Heavy Transition Metal Cations Using Novel Chemosensors
**Dr. Shainaz Landge**
Transition metals (TM) when present in excess can trigger health and environmental problems, which include memory loss and cognitive functions. Commercially-available compounds were used in the synthesis of various chemo sensors. These sensors were used to efficiently and selectively attract a specific heavy metal and tested via various spectroscopic techniques.

**Mallory Theis | Chemistry**
Electronically Excited States of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons containing Nitrogen and their Relation to the Interstellar Medium
**Dr. Ryan Fortenberry**
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are the most abundant class of molecules in space. Therefore, there is worth in the study of these molecules in relation to unknown spectroscopic features in the interstellar medium. This study determines the ability of PAHs containing nitrogen to form anionic dipole-bound excited states.

**Andrea Lindsey McCollum | Chemistry**
Polyethylene Glycol containing ROMPolymers for the Modification of Neuro-Protective Hemoglobin
**Dr. Hans-Joerg Schanz**
Polyethylene glycol (PEG) has shown the ability to improve compatibility when used in combination with cell-free hemoglobin in the treatment of traumatic brain injuries. In this context, synthetic pathways have been developed to incorporate PEG into monomers and polymers through both direct modification of (7-oxa)norbornene derivatives and post polymerization modification via click reaction.

**Kimberly M. Shattuck | Anthropology**
An Analysis of Late Mississippian Village Distances in Macintosh County, Georgia
**Dr. Heidi Altman**
This research aims to more accurately classify Mississippian time period (ad 1300 – 1580) village centers in Macintosh County, Georgia. Using the model proposed in Sipe 2013, this research examines features of sites such as village center distances from other village centers in order to better distinguish sites from one another.

**Michael Putnam | Anthropology**
The Viking Language of the Highlands and Islands: Reconstructing the Norn Language from Old Norse
**Dr. Heidi Altman**
The people of the Orkney and Shetland archipelagos once spoke a unique language known as Norn, evolved from Old Norse. Norn went extinct under the influence of Scots English, save for a few words and one 35-stanza ballad. This paper attempts to map the sound changes that resulted in the emergence of the Norn language.

**Phillip Burns | Anthropology**
Fiber Crafts and Production Spaces at La Milpa North, Belize
**Dr. Heidi Altman**
This research project provides a glimpse into the social divisions of labor that existed in Maya society throughout the Late Classic and contributes directly toward our understanding of status distinctions and community and spatial organization at the ancient Maya site of La Milpa North.
SESSION II: THESES/CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

ROOM 2911

Corinna Miller | International Studies
Little Emperors and an Army of Orphans: The Government’s Control over the Idea of Family in an Overpopulated World
Dr. Darin Van Tassell
Governments enact laws to shape their country, without fully understanding the effects they can have on individuals. By using the Romania’s Declaration of 1966 and China’s One Child Policy, this paper correlates the reasons behind their development and reaches a conclusion regarding the benefits and consequences of these policies.

Leah Long | French and International Trade
The French Print Media and Their Influence on Public Opinion: An Enduring Trend?
Dr. David Seaman
The trend of print media’s influence on public opinion emerged in France with the Dreyfus Affair in the late 19th century. By examining two more recent events, the formation of the European Union and the millennial debt crisis we can test the trend’s endurance into the modern era.

Emily Hulsey | International Studies and Spanish
Sex (still) Sells: How Sex Trafficking in the United States and Thailand Perpetuates Minority Repression
Dr. Darin Van Tassell
This thesis compares sex trafficking of children in the city of Atlanta, GA to sex trafficking of ethnic minorities in Thailand. I conclude that the same basic practices are shown in both locations, and therefore a universal and comprehensive approach to fighting sex trafficking can be established.

ROOM 2901

Kelsey R. Keane | English and Political Science
“SO IT GOES:” Hope Amidst Chaos in Slaughterhouse-Five
Dr. Hemchand Gossai
The chaotic narrative may initially lead readers to assume that Slaughterhouse-Five mimics the fatalistic conclusions of postmodernist tradition. However, upon a closer reading of Vonnegut’s work a stylistic order becomes evident, establishing cohesive themes concerning the effects of violent trauma and the discovery of hope amidst the atrocity of war.

Alicia Burrus | English
Gender Differentiation and Gender Hierarchy in C. S. Lewis
Dr. Hemchand Gossai
This thesis explores the evidence of sexism in the literary works of C. S. Lewis. Each of Lewis’s major fictional works shows evidence of sexism, though such evidence lessen in frequency and prominence with each subsequent work.
**Room 2903**

**Laynie Brown** | Exercise Science  
An Examination between Swimming Ability, Gender, and Race - An Exploratory Investigation  
**Dr. Daniel Czech**  
The purpose of this study was to examine ability to swim between gender, race, and school classification of college students. Quantitative data was collected including demographic information and self-reported swimming ability. Results will be examined from a therapeutic outlook and how they will be able to benefit hydrotherapy programs.

**Sarah Simpson** | Exercise Science  
The Examination of Healthy Eating Across Cultures: An Existential Phenomenological Approach  
**Dr. Daniel Czech**  
The purpose of this study is to examine the cross-cultural perceptions of healthy eating. Mothers native to America and Italy were interviewed from a phenomenological perspective on their experiences with eating healthy. The results revealed similarities in both what foods were perceived as healthy and how these foods were obtained.

**Claire Goodwin** | Athletic Training and Exercise Science  
The Effects of Psychological Intervention on Anxiety and Confidence Levels of First-Year Athletic Training Students During Emergencies  
**Erin Jordan**  
The purpose of this study is to show how psychological intervention can help First-Year Athletic Training Students cope with the situational stress of dealing with emergencies. Psychological changes in the body can influence the level of confidence and the quality of care that athletic trainers can provide to their patients.

**Room 2904**

**Katelyn Yeomans** | Mathematics  
Classifying Finite Groups up to Isomorphism  
**Dr. Alina Iacob**  
We are interested in classifying finite groups up to isomorphisms. When two groups are isomorphic, they are algebraically identical, meaning they have the same properties. We will recall results from group theory, such as the Fundamental Theorem of Finitely Generated Abelian Groups and Sylow's Theorems to help classify these groups.

**Brittney Benzio** | Mathematics  
Analysis of Resource Allocation through Game Theory  
**Dr. Hua Wang**  
This project uses game theory to model situations of different car companies and how they allocate their resources with any particular vehicle according to a set of preferences.

**Sarah Gleissle** | Finance  
Comparing and Contrasting the German and the US Financial Systems, Institutions, and Regulations with Emphasis on the Financial Crisis in 2008  
**Edward Sibbald**  
This research compares the financial systems of the US and Germany, including the structure, institutions, and regulations as well as the impacts of the Financial Crisis in 2008. Also examined are the regulatory agencies and with emphasis on the different competitive natures and how they influenced businesses and business decisions.
**ROOM 2905**

**Kacy Bennett | Biology**  
α-Latrotoxin Genes are Highly Divergent Between Species of Widow Spiders (*Genus Latrodectus*)  
**Dr. John Scott Harrison**  
Widow spiders (*Genus Latrodectus*) possess neurotoxic venom that varies in potency among species. α-latrotoxin is the main protein in widow venom that affects vertebrates including humans. This study quantified genetic variation in the α-latrotoxin gene among three *Latrodectus* species. Amino acid differences ranged from 14% - 58% between species.

**Jade Boykin | Biology**  
Physiological and Biochemical Consequences of Sleep Deprivation  
**Dr. Johanne Lewis**  
Continual (chronic) elevated stress levels have been linked with serious negative health effects which have been suggested to be linked to the chronic elevation of stress hormones. By using sleep deprivation studies on a simpler model organism than humans, it is our aim to investigate the consequences of sleep deprivation at the physiological and biochemical level in a teleost fish.

**Stephanie Shipley | Biology**  
The Effects of Sodium Lauryl Sulfate on the Abundance of Producers and Grazers in Aquatic Communities Using Freshwater Microcosms  
**Dr. Risa A. Cohen**  
Sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS), commonly found in cleaning products, may be toxic to aquatic organisms via reduction in water quality or direct toxicity. Microalgae and invertebrate grazers were exposed to SLS for three weeks. Neither water quality nor microalgae was influenced by SLS, but grazer abundance declined, suggesting direct toxicity.

**ROOM 2908**

**Liana Moran | Public Relations**  
Adoption of Social Media Marketing Among Professionals  
**Dr. Camille Broadway**  
Social media marketing is the professional use of social media for marketing purposes. The researcher conducted qualitative research in the form of in-depth interviews with real estate professionals, and analyzed the adoption of social media marketing among professionals in context to Everett Rogers’ diffusion of innovations theory using thematic analysis.

**James Kelly | Marketing**  
Social Media Marketing Use in Georgia’s Institutions of Higher Education  
**Dr. Lindsay Larson**  
The Internet and social media are changing the way that people interact with the world around them every day. This study aims to discover how institutions use outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs, and other platforms, to connect with university offices and students in new ways.

**Arielle Coambes | Writing and Linguistics**  
A Usability Study of the WINGS Registration Interface  
**Dr. Janice Walker**  
Georgia Southern University hosts the Web Interactive Networks for Georgia Southern (WINGS) as a portal for official university business. This thesis explores whether the WINGS registration interface is meeting users’ needs by conducting an informal usability study, which gauges how easily WINGS users can access course-related services and accomplish tasks.
SESSION III:
THEESIS/CAPSTONE
PRESENTATIONS
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

ROOM 2911

Dora Suarez | Modern Languages and Philosophy
Proper Names as Narrative Gaps: A Deconstructive Reading of Rosario Ferré and García Márquez
Dr. Toby Graves
Using Ferré’s and García-Márquez’s texts as examples, this thesis deconstructs the way in which proper names are used in fiction in order to show their value as narrative gaps that challenge the traditional notion of authorship while enabling a play of différence.

Yavaria Ryan | Writing and Linguistics
The People We Become
Laura Valeri
The People We Become is a coming-of-age novella about Ezzie, a college senior, who struggles to answer the question, “Do I sacrifice my dreams to help others?” The first person narrative enables readers to follow Ezzie’s journey to understand how events that surround our lives affect the people we become.

ROOM 2901

Mattie Raiford | Biology and Spanish
The Effects of Gold Nanorods on the Rate of Apoptosis of Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells
Dr. Karin Scarpinato
Triple negative breast cancer is a subtype of breast cancer that’s characterized by a lack of the progesterone receptor, estrogen receptor, and human epithelial growth factor receptor 2. Current therapies target these receptors to trigger apoptosis. The project used porphyrin and gold nanorods to selectively target MDA-MB-231 cells.

James Zachary Akins | Chemistry
Photodynamic Cancer Therapy: A Study of the Photolysis Reaction between Porphyrin and 9,10-Diphenylyanthracene
Dr. Jim LoBue
Photodynamic therapy (PDT) is a method of combating cancerous tumors. PDT works when molecules called photosensitizers absorb light and transfer energy to dissolved oxygen. Next, this singlet oxygen will interfere with cancer cells. This research focuses on the kinetics (rates) of the reaction involving 5,10,15,20-Tetrakis(2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl)porphyrin (TPP) and 9,10-Diphenylyanthracene (DPA).
**Anger in the Courtroom: Attorney Gender and Emotion and their Effect on Juror Perception**

**Blayne May | Psychology**

This study sought to examine the effects of stereotypes of emotional expression and their effects on jurors’ perception of an attorney’s competence. Though results seemed to not support the hypotheses, when race was added to the model, participants found male attorneys more competent than female attorneys in the angry condition.

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**A Cultural Examination of Hardiness: Associations with Self-Esteem, Wisdom, Hope, and Coping-Efficacy**

**Asea Gilmore | Psychology**

This study aimed to examine positive psychology variables in relation to resilience in order to find variables that promote resilience in college students. Wisdom, hope, and coping self-efficacy were examined amongst 436 undergraduate students. Results suggested wisdom, hope, and coping self-efficacy were positively related to resilience.

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**Resilience and Self-Control Among Georgia Southern Students: A Comparative Study between ROTC Students and Non-ROTC Students**

**Kristen Campbell | Psychology**

The military has recently focused on increasing resiliency. This study aimed to see if GSU cadets have higher levels of self-control and resilience than general students, and if these traits could buffer cadets from the negative consequences associated with cognitive depletion.

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**Solving the Puzzle of the Black Vote: Is Education Really the Missing Piece?**

**Xavier R. Brown | Political Science**

This study is dedicated to explaining why education is a weak predictive factor for voting participation among African American voters. It ventures to suggest and support that communal factors tied to group membership exert a strong force on whether or not African American citizens vote.

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**Language Barriers and their Effects on Quality Healthcare**

**Shannen Fyffe | Modern Languages**

In the United States, 3.38 million people report not speaking English well. The purpose of this thesis is to provide statistics based upon research and provide information based upon personal experience to raise awareness to the growing issue of miscommunication and improper translation measures taken to provide quality healthcare to Spanish speakers in the United States.

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**Barriers and Facilitators of Access to Health and Support Services for Adolescents Living with Disabilities in a Rural Area**

**Kimberly Weeks | Health Education and Promotion**

Individuals living with disabilities have more unmet health needs, poorer health outcomes, and less access to health services than those without a disability. The purpose of this study was to assess barriers and facilitators of access to health and support services for adolescents living with disabilities in a rural area.
**ROOM 2905**

**Katie Googe | Biology**  
A Morphological and Genetic Analysis of Forensically Important Blow Flies, from Georgia: The Genus *Lucilia*  
**Dr. Edward Mondor**  
Blow fly (*Diptera: Calliphoridae*) identification is important for estimating “death to discovery” for human remains. Morphological and genetic variation was assessed in *Lucilia coeruleiviridis*, *L. cuprina*, and *L. sericata*, in Georgia. Morphological traits varied, but morphology and genetics corresponded well. Both techniques should be used to accurately identify *Lucilia* species.

**Daniel Ogden | Biology**  
Immunohistochemical Localization of the Aquaporins AQP3 and AQP6 in Kidneys of Freshwater and Saltwater-acclimated American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)  
**Dr. Christopher Cutler**  
Aquaporin are expressed in the kidneys of American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) and transport water across epithelial tissue of the kidney tubules and collecting ducts. Immunohistochemical localization was used to investigate expression of aquaporin isoforms AQP3 and AQP6 in the kidneys of saltwater- and freshwater-acclimated eels.

**Jordan Garrett | Biology**  
Detecting the Presence of Aquaporin 4b in the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) in Kidney Structures and Cloning and Sequencing a Fragment of Aquaporin 0 from the Dogfish Shark (*Squalus acanthias*)  
**Dr. Chris Culter**  
Localization of the AQP4b protein in eel kidney was performed using an antibody and immunohistochemistry, and this detected the presence of these proteins in unidentified ring-like structures and along tracts. Although the exact cells displaying immunofluorescence with the AQP4b antibody were not been determined, possibilities to be explored in future include oligodendrocytes or chromaffin cells.

**Kacie L. Thorne | Anthropology**  
Composting: Sustainable Efforts on a University Scale  
**Dr. Heidi Altman**  
The present study addresses the relationship between the culture and ecology of Georgia Southern University’s student body of solid food waste management in the hopes of establishing composting units on a university campus in relation to cultural, economic, and political spheres.

**Ariel Vipond | Anthropology and French**  
The Gift of Second Sight: An Analysis of Puppy Raisers for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind  
**Dr. Heidi Altman**  
This research seeks to identify the demographics and motivations of Puppy Raisers, volunteers who foster and train future assistance dogs from the time the dogs are seven weeks old until eighteen months of age, for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind.

**Mariann D. Torrence | Sociology**  
Continuing to Foster: The Impact on Foster to Adopt Families  
**Dr. April M. Schueths**  
This exploratory study examines the lives of five foster families who have adopted at least one foster child and continued fostering other children in their home. Five main themes emerged from this study: Intention, Financial Incentives, Parenting Style, Family Bond, and Children’s Age.
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