2012

Honors Research Symposium Program [2012]

University Honors Program Students and Staff

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Reception 1: 00 pm
Welcome 1:15 pm
Dr. Steven Engel
Student Presentations 1:30- 5:00 pm
Session I 1:30- 2:30 pm
Session II 2:45- 3:45 pm
Session III 4:00- 5:00 pm
Phillip Stevens  
**Physics**  
Exploring a 500 Kpc HI Plume in the Virgo cluster  
**Dr. James Higdon**  
Observations and analysis of a large (500kpc~1.54*10^22 meters) atomic hydrogen extension associated with the binary dwarf galaxies DDO137 and NGC4532. We explore the extent of the plume, its morphology, and its origins.

Brandon Benton  
**Physics**  
Prototyping Method for Bragg-Type Atom Interferometers  
**Dr. Mark Edwards**  
Bose-Einstein Condensates (BECs), an exotic phase of matter first created in 1995, can be used to implement atom interferometry, a powerful technique for precision measurement. We present a model for describing BEC dynamics during interferometric processes and reproduce results of a recently performed National Institute of Standards and Technology experiment.

Rachel Smith  
**Mathematics and Economics**  
Humans Versus Zombies: A Mathematical Model  
**Dr. Patricia Humphrey**  
Since its inception, the Humans vs. Zombies game has spread to more than 650 campuses worldwide. In this paper I analyze the game using data collected from Georgia Southern’s games to determine if the game play can be modeled by a Susceptible Infected Recovered (SIR) model.

Felicia Williams  
**Biology**  
Host-louse Specificity—The Odd Case of *Neotrichodectes mephitidis*  
Parasitizing Skunks and Island Foxes  
**Dr. Lance Durden and Dr. Lorenza Beati**  
Most species of lice are host-specific. However, the chewing louse, *Neotrichodectes mephitidis*, which parasitizes the Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), was reported on the threatened Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*). By assessing morphological and molecular traits of these lice, this study found that the lice are monophyletic but are evolving separately. We hypothesize that these lice are either separate cryptic species or are conspecific.

Alexandra Mitchell  
**Biology**  
*In Vitro* Excystment of the Metacercariae of *Gynaecotyla Adunca* (Trematoda: Microphallidae) from the Fiddler Crab, *UCA Pugnax*, and the Experimental Test of Predictions of Self-Fertilization  
**Dr. Oscar J. Pung**  
The *in vitro* excystment and fertilization of the digenetic trematode *Gynaecotyla adunca* were investigated to determine if the parasite can be grown in the laboratory. The maximum number of worms excysted in 0.5% trypsin after 30 minutes and a self-fertilization mode of reproduction was confirmed.

Jessica Cain  
**Biology**  
Effects of Alginate Addition on Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) Transplant Success and Macroinvertebrate Colonization  
**Dr. Risa Cohen**  
The potential of alginate additions to aid in transplant success of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) was investigated. Swards were transplanted with the experimental group receiving alginate. Live stem and some macroinvertebrate densities demonstrated an early positive response, suggesting alginate may be useful for salt marsh restoration under certain conditions.
**Halie Martin**  
Chemistry  
Synthesis of Novel Iron-Chelating Agents for the Treatment of Hemochromatosis  
**Dr. Christine R. Whitlock**  
Hemochromatosis is a painful medical condition in which ‘free’ iron collects within the bloodstream. TRENSOX drugs have shown promising results for the removal of excess iron in an aqueous system. TRENSOX derivatives are being synthesized by replacing the quinoline units of the TRENSOX amines with indoles.

**Kathryn Lanier**  
Chemistry  
Synthesis of Novel Iron-Chelating Agents  
**Dr. Christine Whitlock**  
Hemochromatosis is a medical condition in which ‘free’ iron collects within the bloodstream. Recently, the TRENSOX drugs have shown promising results for the removal of excess iron in an aqueous system and thus, for the development of an oral drug. Derivatives of the TRENSOX drugs are being synthesized in our laboratory by replacing the quinoline units of the TRENSOX amines with indoles. Two preliminary compounds have been prepared and tested for iron-binding ability. These compounds would represent a new class of iron chelators and a significant development in the treatment of hemochromatosis.

**Stephen Crooke**  
Chemistry  
Progress toward the Synthesis of Dragmacidin Derivatives for Cancer Treatments  
**Dr. Christine Whitlock and Dr. Michele McGibony**  
A series of compounds have been isolated from marine sponges in recent years displaying significant levels of biological activity. A one-pot synthesis of similar compounds has been undertaken to develop analogs with comparable levels of activity. Collaboration with the National Cancer Institute is currently under consideration.

**Kadisa Johnson**  
Information Technology  
A Failed Attempt to Redesign: A Look at How Bureaucracy and Evolving Technology Altered the Direction of an Overly Optimistic Project  
**Dr. Christopher A. Kadlec**  
This case study illustrates the challenges and lessons learned in attempting to revamp the Honors Program website and redesign its database. The systems development life cycle (SDLC) methodology was used to break the project into smaller phases.

**Jonathon Bowyer**  
Computer Science  
Game On: Designing and Building a 2D Game Engine  
**Dr. James Bradford**  
A game engine is a complex beast involving multiple interconnected subsystems working in tandem to provide a virtual world for a player to interact with. The presented project is my own attempt to build an extensible and modular 2D game engine, with the eventual end-goal being to apply it towards educational gaming and teaching diabetic management.

**Katherine Olive**  
Management/ Human Resources  
Behind the Scenes: What goes on at the Georgia Southern University Department of Human Resource  
**Dr. Robert Hoell**  
This presentation will compare the functional areas of human resources within the Georgia Southern University Department of Human Resources, based on information gathered from my internship, to the functional areas outlined by the Society for Human Resource Management and the class textbook for the introductory human resources class.
Emily Detmer  
**Anthropology and Spanish**  
Potential Explanations for the Absence of Archaic Artifacts at Magnolia Springs  
**Dr. Heidi Altman**  
Archaeological excavations at Magnolia Springs yielded almost no artifacts from the Archaic period. My research aims to determine the reasons for the absence of the type of artifacts one would expect to find at a site located in the Savannah River Valley by using archaeological survey techniques and site comparison.

Megan Morris  
**English**  
Going the Extra Six Feet: Disposing of the Dead in Faulkner and O'Connor  
**Dr. Hemchand Gossai**  
William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Flannery O'Connor's *The Violent Bear It Away* both depict epic journeys of burial. In these novels, the death of a relative sends their grieving family members on a quest to fulfill their last wishes properly and overcome the grieving process. A close examination of the last request and final resting place of the relatives serves to illustrate the influence the dead characters have over the living and their subsequent agency.

Francine Rosel Koenig  
**English**  
The Veiled Power and the Seductive Siren: Bannerman, Dacre, and the Female Gothic  
**Dr. Hemchand Gossai and Dr. Douglass Thomson**  
Contemporaries in the Gothic field, Anne Bannerman and Charlotte Dacre construct heroines who conquer the masculine in their work, causing them to both adhere to and defy the conventions of the Female Gothic in their critique of both the genre and the patriarchy.

Ivana Okor  
**Psychology and Chemistry**  
The Effects of Priming Approach and Avoidance Goals on Relationship Expectations and Memories  
**Dr. Amy Hackney**  
The current study experimentally manipulated relationship goals under an approach or avoidance system. Participants primed with approach relationship goals are expected to remember more positive things about their partners and to expect more positive behaviors from their partners than participants primed with avoidance goals.

Christian Gibson  
**Psychology**  
The Effects of Stereotypes and Self-Affirmation on Hiring Decisions  
**Dr. Amy Hackney**  
An experiment tested whether self-affirmation would decrease the application of stereotypes about others. Participants were randomly assigned to be self-affirmed (or not) before reading about a Black or White job applicant. Results showed that salary decisions were affected by applicant race, participant gender, and whether the participant wanted the job.

Jessica Joyner  
**Psychology and Justice Studies**  
The Impact of Individuality and Immorality on the Criminal Justice System  
**Dr. Catherine Marcum and Dr. Amy Hackney**  
The increasing mentality and acceptance of individualism within American society has gradually depleted the necessity for and the significance of moral reasoning underlying behavior; thus, manifesting direct and severely tragic implications, especially for the criminal justice system.
Lacy Bell  
Justice Studies  
Fighting for Faith in the Land of the Free: Discrimination Against Religious Minorities in the United States Judicial System  
Dr. Brett Curry  
Despite the First Amendment and its protection of religious free exercise, religious minorities face disadvantages in the United States judicial system and often find themselves the target of religious discrimination. This paper suggests that religious discrimination increases when a religion greatly differs from mainstream Protestant Christianity, for many reasons.

Nicole Penn  
Political Science  
Public Perception of Attorneys  
Dr. Richard Pacelle  
This study was completed in order to understand what the public opinion of lawyers is and where these opinions come from. It was believed that public opinion was negative and that these opinions came from the media’s negative portrayals of lawyers and a lack of formal education on this profession.

David C. Williamson  
Political Science  
The Impact of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decision-Making  
Dr. Richard Pacelle  
The process of Supreme Court decision-making has always been shrouded in mystery. The decisions handed down by the Court in today’s politically charged climate give this issue special significance. This research tests the traditional models of judicial decision-making while also testing for the effects of public opinion in this process.

Allyson Lumpkin  
Communication Arts  
The Roles of International Media and Domestic Media During the 2011 Political Crisis in Egypt  
Dr. Abby Brooks and Dr. Reed Smith  
January 25, 2011, thousands of Egyptians protested the ban President Hosni Mubarak placed on the Muslim Brotherhood from political participation. What began as a day of revolt turned into months of political unrest. This study seeks to explore the role international and domestic media news played in promoting political action.

Sarah Gross  
Sociology  
We Fear: Immediate Newspaper Coverage of the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster  
Dr. Nancy Malcom  
I examine the newspaper coverage of the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant disaster, comparing articles from The Japan Times and The New York Times. Analyzing them through the symbolic interactionist perspective, I find that both newspapers recreate and perpetuate symbols of fear and need.

Drew Cheshire  
Multimedia Communications  
The Kiwanis Ogeechee Fair: 50 years of Fun, Family, and Funnelcakes  
Tyson Davis  
This documentary compiles footage of the preparation and celebration of the 2012 Kiwanis Ogeechee Fair, and photographs from the last 50 years of the event. It includes a narration of the fair’s history, interviews with current Kiwanis Club members and local vendors about its importance in the community, and brief discussions with fairgoers about their favorite attractions and traditions.
Mary Katherine Mills
The Temporal and Spatial Fate, Survivability, and Excretion of GFP-expressing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* After Ingestion by the Common House Fly, *Musca domestica*

Dr. Dana Nayduch
House flies have been shown to harbor up to 65 pathogens of humans; therefore, understanding the ability of the house fly to serve as a vector for bacteria is relevant to human health. This study identifies the temporal and spatial fate, survivability, and excretion of GFP-*P. aeruginosa* after ingestion.

Megan Prescott
The Distribution of the *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* Species Complex in Georgia

Dr. William Irby
The mosquito species complex *Anopheles quadrimaculatus* contains five distinct species and historically has been implicated in the role of malaria transmission in the Southeastern United States. We are analyzing the distribution of these species in order to gain insight into these mosquitoes in the event that malaria returns to this area.

Katherine Mincey
Elemental and Physical Defenses of Nickel Hyperaccumulators and Their Affects on Herbivory

Dr. William Irby
This study examines the effectiveness of elemental and physical defenses in nickel hyperaccumulators on specialist and generalist insect herbivores. Choice and no-choice experiments were completed to assess the fitness effects of these organisms. This was done based on their feeding habits with hyperaccumulators grown in varying levels of Ni-amended soil.

Jacqueline Gardner
Analytical Examination of the Crystal Structure of Amino-benzoic acid benzyl ester

Dr. Allison Amonette
Computational chemistry is the branch of chemistry that uses computer science to help solve complicated chemical problems. Using progressively larger, more complex computations on the system Web-MO, the optimal geometry of Amino-benzoic acid benzyl ester was determined. These computational aspects were then compared to the geometry and NMR experimental data.

Danielle Duncan
Analytical Examination of the Crystal Structure of Indole-6-Carboxylic Acid Using Computational Chemistry

Dr. Allison Amonette
A computational chemistry program was used to analyze a molecule. Then a comparison was made between computational and text values of various aspects of the molecule. These comparisons were made to show the accuracy of computational chemistry in analyzing molecules.

Bryan Blake Wiggins
Variation in Lachrymatory Factor and Certain Other Compounds between Layers in Yellow Onion

Dr. Brian Koehler, Dr. Shannon Davis, and Dr. Norman Schmidt
Lachrymatory factor (LF) and dipropyl disulfide (DPDS) are primary components associated with onion flavor. LF is responsible for the “burning eyes” typically associated with cutting onions. This study focuses on quantifying the amounts of LF and DPDS using flame ionization mass spectrometry gas chromatography in different parts of yellow onion.

Cathryn Kelsey Ryan
The Enzymatic Production of Molecular Hydrogen

Dr. Dontarie Stallings
This project describes an economically realistic and environmentally beneficial technique to mass-produce molecular hydrogen in an aqueous system using iron-only hydrogenase. In this project, the construction of a sol-gel embedded active iron-only hydrogenase enzyme will be made. The enzymatic consistency and protein conformation within the sol-gel will be determined.
Jordan Tompkins  
Anthropology  
Alleviating Teen Pregnancy in Tattnall County, Georgia: Proposed Methods from an Anthropological Perspective  
Dr. Heidi Altman  
Tattnall County, Georgia, has a teenage birthrate that is higher than the state and national birthrates, combined. This research project was designed to provide a preliminary report that highlights the effects of teen pregnancy in Tattnall County and anthropological methods that could be used to study the issue.

Megan McCarthy  
Nutrition and Food Science  
Nutrition Fact Label Usage Among Underclassmen College Students  
Dr. Joelle Romanchik-Cerpovicz  
This study determined if nutrition fact label usage among underclassmen college students varied by sex. Data showed that both genders read labels. However, females were more likely to use labels for Kcals, serving size determination, and meal planning. Males would benefit from education on using labels to create healthy diets.

Alicia Channell  
Nursing  
Perspectives of Pregnant Women in Southeast Georgia on Prenatal Genetic Testing  
Dr. Rose Mary Gee  
Prenatal genetic testing is a growing practice in America. However, many pregnant women are not aware of this option; some do not know what the term means. Others believe that the practice is immoral. This project focused on determining the perspectives of pregnant women regarding prenatal genetic testing.

Michael Palmese  
Music Composition  
The Troubled Reception of “The Death of Klinghoffer”  
Dr. Gregory Harwood  
John Adams’s 1991 opera, “The Death of Klinghoffer,” is based on the 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro by Palestinian extremists and the subsequent murder of Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American Jew. My research focused on the dynamics and motivations behind both the detractors and defenders of the opera.

Tristen Gonshorowski  
English  
Not Like Your Christianity: Pagan Echoes in Irish Literature  
Dr. Hemchand Gossai  
When St. Patrick undertook his mission, he created a version of Christianity in Ireland with a distinctly pagan flavor. One can easily study this pagan-influenced Christianity by considering three different pieces of Irish literature: Life of Saint Brigid the Virgin, Vita Prima Sanctae Brigitae, and The Wild Irish Girl.

Kelly Corallo  
English  
The Sublimity of Religion and Hibernian Possibilities: Implications of the Religious and Natural Sublime for Sydney Owenson’s Ireland  
Dr. Hemchand Gossai  
Writing from a time of great political turmoil, Sydney Owenson wrote intricate texts. Owenson further complicated her novels by incorporating a religious element to the Natural Sublime. By adding a religious element, Owenson propagates a nature-based Christianity as the solution to many of Ireland’s early 19th Century problems.
Mary Roberts  
Psychology  
The Effects of Defendant Race, Skin Tone, and Socioeconomic Status on Juror Decision Making  
Dr. Amy Hackney  
The current research examines the effects of defendant ethnicity (White vs. Mexican American), skin tone (light vs. dark), and SES (low vs. high) on juror decision making. Participants will read one of six crime scenarios and provide a verdict and sentencing instructions.

Christine Foxwell  
Psychology  
The Detection of Unseen Staring with Changes in the Sympathetic Nervous System  
Dr. Amy Hackney and Dr. Janice Steirn  
This experiment tested unseen staring detection, or the ability to feel when one is being stared at by an unseen person. A GSR device measured changes in the sympathetic nervous system. Participants were primed with dangerous scenarios (or not) and told (or not) that an unseen confederate would be staring.

Delacy Carpenter  
Psychology  
Investigating the Relationship between Facebook and Life Satisfaction of College Students  
Dr. Jeff Klibert  
Our study investigated Facebook behaviors and how these behaviors affected undergraduates' life satisfaction. The study included 463 students. We found that students spent more time on Facebook per week than other activities besides studying. Facebook variables had no significant effect on life satisfaction, while anxiety and depression affected all scales.

Gustavo Rodriguez-Zaccaro  
Political Science  
Explaining Lack of Global Action in Terms of Humanitarian Crises  
Dr. Barry Balleck and Dr. Krista Wiegand  
Intervening forces in humanitarian crises have not been able to reach their potential in terms of the ability to lessen human suffering. Time and time again different factors aid in maintaining these limitations of humanitarian practice. I attempt to explain these factors that are common in different cases of intervention.

John Dulap  
History  
Short and Lively Wars  
Dr. John Steinberg  
Both eighteenth century Prussia and twentieth century Israel found themselves in similar geopolitical situations. Because of this they developed similar military doctrines.

Ashley Boyer  
Political Science  
Israel, Palestine, and the Demise of the...One- Two- Maybe Three-State Solution?  
Dr. Krista Wiegand  
The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been unresolved for decades, and much of the debate on Palestine was framed between the two polarities of a “One-State Solution” versus a “Two-State Solution.” I argue that as a result of the 2007 split of Fateh and Hamas, the two-state solution is not feasible.
**Ashley Fullerton**  
An Analysis of Eel Aquaporins and Osmoregulation  
**Dr. Chris Cutler**  
The protein expression of aquaporins in eels in freshwater and saltwater environments, after initially being in freshwater, were evaluated using western blotting. It was determined that the difference in the level of expression became statistically significant in all body parts evaluated after twenty-one days.

**Tabitha Williford**  
The Effects of Fire and Dormancy on Population Dynamics of Endangered *Trillium persistens*  
**Dr. Lissa Leege**  
Endangered *Trillium persistens* occurs in a ~5 mile radius near the GA/SC border, including a fire-dependent ecosystem. We determined the impact of fire and the role of dormancy on populations with a census of *T. persistens*. Dormancy is important in accurately projecting populations and fire does not limit *T. persistens*.

**Renee Fritz**  
Low Salinity Affects Larval Development and Juvenile Production in the Sea Urchin *Lytechinus variegatus*  
**Dr. Sophie George**  
Due to changes in climate and weather patterns, *Lytechinus variegatus* larvae may be exposed to periods of low salinity in nature. In this study, the effects of long and short-term exposure to low salinity on larvae were determined. Overall, exposure to low salinity negatively affected larval development and juvenile production.

**Collin Enfinger**  
Effects of Position and Track Length on Spontaneous Alternation Behavior in *Armadillidium* Woodlice in Mazes  
**Dr. Alan Harvey**  
Spontaneous Alternation Behavior is the consistent choice to turn in opposite directions on successive turns when no direction offers added incentive. In this study we investigated a model for explanation of SAB by looking at the relationship between an organism’s orientation within a maze and its movement through the maze.

**Kristina Deveaux**  
Approaches toward a Furanylidene System Using a Commercially Available Beta-Keto Phosphonate  
**Dr. Karelle Aiken**  
We have developed a four-step synthesis for furanylidene systems. The first three reactions are geared toward the extension of the carbon-skeleton of the 1,3-keto carbonyl compound. In the fourth and final step, the furanylidene system is generated via an acid-mediated, cyclization process. In addition, alkyne activation by Gold(I)Chloride was also explored.

**Leigh Sundem**  
Nucleophilic Trifluoromethylation of Activated Carbonyl Compounds  
**Dr. Mohammed Abid Shaikh**  
Alzheimer's disease is characterized by the accumulation of amyloid-beta (Aβ) peptides into fibrils within the walls of cerebral blood vessels. The goal of this proposal was to synthesize a new class of anti-fibrilligenic fluorinated compounds. The synthesis of these important compounds was developed using a new methodology of nucleophilic trifluoromethylation.

**Ashlin Reid**  
Statesboro Lead Hazard Reduction and Evaluation Study  
**Dr. Simone Charles and Dr. John DiCeasre**  
Long considered one of the most preventable pediatric health concerns, lead exposure has been significantly reduced over the last few decades. This project is an analysis of the ninety-second health district and the recent lead exposure trends of its youth.
Jennifer L. Riggs
Interns and Fraud: The Influence of Psychological and Generational Traits
Dr. Britton McKay
This capstone approaches the negative effects that generational and psychological traits have on interns’ performance in a professional setting and what threats these may pose to a business.

Derek Kauhane
Hedging Allocated Portfolios Against Volatility in a Recovering Economy
Dr. Karen L. Hamilton
Volatility represents an investor’s most significant risk, but properly investing in this risk can allow the investor to earn higher returns. Depending upon a portfolio’s allocation of stocks and bonds, an allocation of a certain percentage to VIX-based securities can earn an investor more return per unit of risk.

James Moss
Do the Benefits of High Speed Rail Outweigh the Costs? An In-Depth Analysis on the Estimates of Cost and Ridership for Two Select High Speed Rail Projects in the United States
Dr. Stephen Rutner
I am analyzing the possible discrepancies of estimated costs and ridership and actual costs and ridership of two proposed High Speed Rail systems in the USA, using case studies of foreign projects to glean insight on whether or not estimates can be accurately stated beforehand.

Rachel Smith
Mancession
Dr. Tony Barilla
Preliminary looks suggest that the most recent recession was more of a “mancession.” For my research, I plan on using statistical software to analyze the asymmetry in the type and number of positions lost by sex and race, then determine if the structural differences can be attributed to educational differences.

Kathryn Crenshaw
How Pre-Service Teacher Morale is Affected By Our Test-Driven Educational Culture
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson and Dr. Michelle Reidel
The purpose of this study is to examine morale within pre-service teachers and how it is affected by high-stakes testing. After being given two surveys, pre-service teachers do seem to want changes to the testing system, but their overall morale and motivation to teach was generally not affected.

Amanda Arasmith
Caring in the Classroom
Dr. Michelle Reidel and Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson
Caring is a necessary part of an effective classroom. Students are more motivated when they know that their teacher cares. But how is care shown in the classroom? This study sought to take the abstract idea of care and apply it practically for teachers today.

Gabrielle Shaffer
Technical Communication: Education vs. Workplace
Dr. Timothy Giles
“Technical Communication: Education vs. Workplace” is an examination of how technical communication is taught in colleges and how applicable those teachings are in non-academic fields. This project also compares how technical communication is taught in academic settings and workplace settings and proposes alternative teaching methods for the benefit of future students.
Jennifer L. Williams  
**Anthropology**  
Is Gay Blood Bad Blood?: An Analysis of Discrimination Against Homosexual Males  
**Dr. Heidi Altman**  
Homosexual men are banned from giving blood in the United States due to outdated research and preconceived notions of lifestyles. This paper highlights applied anthropological methods that can be used to begin the reversal of this ban and help alleviate the discrimination against this community.

Megan P. Brock  
**Psychology**  
Relationships among Attachment to Parents, Romantic Partners, Friends, and Risky Behaviors  
**Dr. Janice Kennedy**  
This study investigated the relationship between emerging adults’ attachment to primary caregivers and attachment to their close peer, romantic partner, personality traits, and risky behaviors. Hypotheses were supported with significant correlations between mother attachment and romantic partner attachment, certain personality traits, and participation in risky behaviors.

Samuel P. Police  
**Psychology**  
Orienting in Virtual Space: Examining Saliency of Auditory Landmarks to Visual Landmarks Using Dwell Time Task  
**Dr. Kent D. Bodily**  
In a virtual environment, we trained human participants to find a goal via a visual or auditory landmark in a rectangular enclosure. Testing occurred in novel enclosure/landmark combinations. Landmark type did not affect task acquisition nor testing performance. Humans can orient with auditory landmarks as well as visual landmarks.

Cate Faulkner  
**International Studies and Spanish**  
As American as Apple Pie, Baseball...and Xenophobia: How did a Nation of Immigrants Become so Anti-Immigrant?  
**Dr. Darin Van Tassell**  
This research examines the United States’ rich history of immigrants and strong anti-immigrant sub-culture using historical examples that demonstrate that the sentiment did not develop overnight. A modern case study reveals a modern manifestation through two young women, a U.S.-born Caucasian and an undocumented Hispanic, in Georgia’s higher education system.

Veronika Urbina  
**International Studies and Spanish**  
Countdown to Implosion: The Chaotic and (Unintended?) Effects of Neo-Liberalism and Law Number 7 in Puerto Rico  
**Dr. Darin Van Tassell**  
This research focuses on the political and economic changes observed in Puerto Rico after the implementation of neo-liberal policies. We examine the reality of Puerto Rico through statistical data along interviews of two Congressmen from the national Puerto Rican legislature. The results show the overwhelming negative outcomes of Law 7.

Cassandra Dierolf  
**International Studies**  
Demon or Savior: Oda Nobunaga in the Historical Memory of Japan  
**Dr. Darin Van Tassell**  
Using Japanese warlord Oda Nobunaga as a case study, this research effort seeks to demonstrate the impact of historical memory on contemporary cultures via the historical record and modern media. Following this evidence, the research suggests that knowledge of the historical memory of a culture is vital to in-depth interaction.
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.