Spring 2015

Honors Research Symposium Program Spring 2015

University Honors Program, Georgia Southern University

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2015 HONORS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THESIS/ CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS
Nessimth-Lane Classrooms

Session I  11:00 am to 12:00 pm

RECEPTION AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS  12:15 pm to 1:15 pm
Nesssmith-Lane Ballroom

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

THESIS/ CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS
Nessmith-Lane Classrooms

Session II  1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Session II  2:45 pm to 3:45 pm
Session IV  4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

SYMPOSIUM BANQUET  5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
(Invitation Only)
Nesssmith-Lane Ballroom
Welcome to the Eighth 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 125 honors students will present their work, bringing the total number of participants to over 500 since 2008. The symposium program falls into two main components:

**Poster Presentation**

...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.

**Thesis Presentation**

...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.
CESAR PEREZ  Multimedia Communication
A Content Analysis of the MPAA Rating System and its Evolution
Dr. Melanie Stone

This purpose of this research is to determine whether or not there has been an increase, decrease, or no change at all in the amount of explicit content within PG-13 and R-rated films over the last four decades.

ZO HAYNES  Theater and Mathematics
Implementation of Lighting and Projection into Metamorphoses by Mary Zimmerman
Kelly Berry and Dr. Sarah McCarroll

Metamorphoses was produced by the Georgia Southern Black Box theatre in spring of 2015. This is an examination of the process from research to the finished product of everything that went in to creating the lighting and projection for this production.
RACHEL MELCHER  
Anthropology  
Opinions on Divorce in Georgia between Different Demographic Groups  
Dr. Heidi Altman  
Divorce is a divisive topic; indeed, divorce rates differ wildly among different demographic groups. What about opinions, though? What are the differences in opinions on divorce in Georgia between separate different demographic groups? My research suggests that the different lines of thought are drawn largely on religious and ethnic lines.

AMANDA SHIVELEY  
Anthropology  
Osteology of a Burial Vessel from the Late Prehistoric / Early Contact Period Pine Harbor Site (9MC64)  
Dr. Heidi Altman  
This research focuses on osteological examination of a single urn-burial’s contents from Pine Harbor (9MC64), a late prehistoric to early contact period archaeological site excavated on the coast of Georgia in 1978. Analysis generated from this study seeks to shed light on burial demographics and practices of its native occupants.

SARAH RYNIKER  
Anthropology  
To the Savannah Irish: An Ethnohistory of the Culture from 1812-1880  
Dr. Heidi Altman  
Between the years of 1812-1880, the Savannah Irish created and maintained an identity based on Irish ideologies of separatism, independence, and egalitarianism. Through an analysis of Hibernian Society toasts and interviews, the social, economic, and political institutions which influenced the Savannah-Irish culture emerged.

MARIANA HERNANDEZ  
Chemistry  
Controllable and Variable Ibuprofen Release from Temperature Responsive Polymers  
Dr. Ji Wu  
Composite nanofibers containing poly(ε-caprolactone), temperature responsive poly(N-isopropylacrylamide), and ibuprofen have been fabricated using a co-axial electrospinning method. It was found that drug diffusion rates can be varied by 70%, upon changing the diffusion temperature from 22-40°C, without a burst effect due to the protection of the hydrophobic poly(ε-caprolactone) layer.

ASHLEY JOHNS  
Chemistry and Biology  
Synthesis of Asolectin-Containing Latexes by Emulsion Polymerization  
Dr. Rafael Quirino  
Bio-based vesicles, for use in drug delivery or nanocatalyst stabilization, have been prepared by the emulsion copolymerization of tung oil and asolectin, a natural phospholipid from soybeans, in a xylene/water emulsion. Raman spectroscopy, Maldi-TOF, and differential scanning calorimetry analysis have been used to verify completion of the reaction.

JOEL PAGE  
Chemistry and Spanish  
Peptides Designed as Mimics of NF-κB for Transcriptional Regulation  
Dr. Amanda Stewart  
Nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-κB) is a transcription factor that is implicated in several physiological processes. NF-κB is thought to play a role in epilepsy, and the aim of this project will be to synthesize artificial peptides that mimic NF-κB to bind κB DNA selectively and regulate transcription in epilepsy.
ADAM MURFIELD
Logistics & Intermodal Transportation
Cargo Theft in the Motor Carrier Industry: An Exploratory Study
Dr. Christopher Boone

This qualitative study explores how firms within the transportation industry develop opinions on cargo theft as a disruption to their supply chain. Key findings identified insights along three common themes: what considerations firms give relative to cargo theft, what are they doing about it, and future challenges.

MEREDITH AMASON
Marketing
The Effects of Religious Symbolism on Consumer Perceptions of a Salesperson
Dr. Trey Denton and Dr. Lindsay Larson

The purpose of this study was to analyze the effects of the inclusion of a religious symbol on perceptions of sales effectiveness and appropriateness of religious signaling. Findings indicate that for people with both high and low levels of religiosity, the presence of an obvious religious necklace lowered evaluations of salesperson effectiveness.

ADAM MURFIELD
Logistics & Intermodal Transportation
Logistics Performance Measurement: A Comparison of Literature and Practice
Dr. Christopher Boone

Effective measurement of logistics activities contributes directly to a firm’s achievement of sustained competitive advantage and is garnering increased attention from scholars and industry leaders. This research effort compares logistics performance measurement academic literature with respective industry practices through the lens of the management fashion theory.

MADISON ROZAKOS
Writing and Linguistics
A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever: Its Loveliness Increases; It Will Never Pass into Nothingness
Emma Bolden

A Thing of Beauty is a series of short, nonfiction essays attempting to illustrate my perception of beauty. This piece exposes narratives through resonant paradoxes: using beauty to imply a multiplicity of meanings impossible to parse, but implying definite and retrievable meanings as an external mirror to the internal experience.

BETH MARTIN
Writing and Linguistics
The Scars We Choose
Dr. Sarah Domet

“The Scars We Choose” is an excerpt of a full-length novel of the same name. Fictional sections retell the Hawai’ian epic of Pele & Hi’iaka within the context of World War II, while interspersed creative non-fiction written from my perspective underlines the theme of how history negotiates with memory.

JAMES DEVLIN
Writing and Linguistics
Orbit
Jared Yates Sexton

A collection of connected short stories based around a dysfunctional family. Each story takes the point of view of a different character with a unique voice.
KAYLA SMITH  
Biology  
Zebralsh Neurovascular Development: A Model for Human Cerebrovascular Disease  
Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane  
We utilized zebrafish embryos as a model to study the role of the cell-adhesion protein integrin alpha 6 in the development of stroke.

KORI S. WILLIAMS  
Biology  
The Role of Autism Susceptibility Gene Topoisomerase 3B (TOP3B) in Zebrafish Neural Development  
Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane  
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is known to cause varied behavioral effects in affected individuals. Biological causes underlying these defects are poorly understood. Investigation with TOP3B has demonstrated roles in early neural development, which have implications with ASD characteristics.

LAN NGUYEN  
Biology  
Effect of Tetrakis (hydromethyl) phosphonium chloride (THPC) on Zebrafish (Danio rerio)  
Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane  
Traces of tetrakis (hydromethyl) phosphonium chloride (THPC), a flame-retardant chemical, were found in the Ogeechee River in Georgia, and was possibly a toxin contributing to 2011 mass killing of aquatic animals. Zebrafish (Danio rerio) model was used to investigate toxicity and developmental and stressor effects on zebrafish following exposure.

CAITLIN BARKLEY  
Psychology  
Learning Disabilities: Assessing Stereotypes, Metastereotypes, and Stigma-Consciousness  
Dr. Amy Hackney  
People with learning disabilities often believe that others hold negative stereotypes about their group, called metastereotypes. The purpose of the current research was to compare such metastereotypes and associated stigma with the actual stereotypes endorsed by others. Results showed that some stereotypes may not be as commonly held as feared.

HOLLY BURRELL  
Psychology  
The Effects of Imagined Intergroup Contact on Attitudes toward Male Bisexuals  
Dr. Amy Hackney  
This study sought to determine whether imagined intergroup contact would reduce prejudice towards bisexual males. Participants were asked to imagine meeting and having a conversation with a bisexual man for the first time from a third person perspective with their eyes closed.

KATHERINE WHEELER  
Psychology  
The Relationships Between Television Viewing Behaviors, Attachment, Loneliness, Depression, and Psychological Well-Being  
Dr. Amy Hackney  
There is a recent trend of “binge watching” television episodes via streaming products such as Netflix. Little is known, however, about the psychological correlates of such binge watching behaviors. The present study found several interesting relationships between college students’ television-viewing behaviors and relationship attachment, loneliness, depression, and psychological well-being.
1. KAITLYN CARMICHAEL
An Examination of Happiness between Race, Gender, and School Classification - An Echo Boomer Analysis
Dr. Daniel Czech

The purpose of this study is to examine subjective well-being across race, gender, and school classification among college students. Students from 156 sections of physical activity courses at a mid-size university (n = 1200) will complete an online survey containing demographic questions and the Subjective Happiness Scale.

2. JESSICA LOVINS
The Experience of Physical Therapy Burnout (PTB) - A Qualitative Investigation
Dr. Daniel Czech

The physical therapy profession has become notorious for its rates of job stress, burnout, and job turnover in PT school and in the field after graduation (Donohoe et al. 1993; Campo, Weiser, & Koenig, 2009). This study will qualitatively examine experiential factors associated with burnout among various physical therapist populations.

3. SARAH THOMAS
Defining Occupational Therapy: Comparing the Definitions Given by Therapists and Students
Dr. Daniel R. Czech

Research suggests that the occupational therapy discipline is not well understood. This study will attempt to understand what discipline knowledge is held by occupational therapy students and how that compares to the understanding held by occupational therapists. The results could have implications for increasing the discipline knowledge of occupational therapy.
6. LYNDSEY SHELTON
Dr. Darin Van Tassell

The content, plot, and characters of media targeting young adults is a popular point of debate and discussion today. Usually these debates focus on topics like race, gender, and violence. This research looks at the portrayal of religion and the religious and how it has changed and is still changing.

7. DAVID MOORE, SAMUEL YUND, JOSH TIERRA, and NICHOLAS QUAN
Big Data Best Practices in the Fields of Engineering and Computer Science
Dr. Thomas Case

Big Data has quickly emerged as one of the top ways for companies to differentiate themselves from their competition. Some companies master Big Data techniques while others struggle. What are the Big Data best practices that make some companies so successful, and how can other companies benefit from these techniques?

8. JOSH WRIGHT, DANNY BURER, DALEY STEPANEK, and NOLAN JACKSON
Best Social Media Practices for Small Business
Dr. Thomas Case

Small businesses can maximize their advantages gained through social media use by using key techniques and other technologies available. This primarily includes usage of social networks for interfacing with consumers, facilitating internal communications, and enhancing marketing strategies.

9. KYLE LEEP, REBECCA PRESTRIDGE, DANE KELLER, and CHRISTOPHER RALSTON
Social Media: Best Practices in Higher Education
Dr. Thomas Case

“Social Media: Best Practices in Higher Education” discusses how social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, E-mail, Skype, Folio, etc.) can be used to enhance the education and college experience of students. Many different uses for these social media “tools” are explored, and the pros and cons of each are elaborated upon.
10. CAROLINE LATHI, CASSIDY KEIM, MADISON KELLY, and SARINA KEFFER
Animal Assisted Therapy with Mental and Physical Health
Dr. Trent Maurer and Dr. Jerri Kropp
This presentation analyzes research completed in eleven different countries to gain a global perspective on animal-assisted therapy. Effects in both the mental and physical aspects were observed. We found that both mental and physical health can improve from animal-assisted therapy universally.

11. BERNADETTE O’DONNELL, BAILEY KIRK, and MARINA MICHAUD
La Bestia: Unaccompanied Migrant Children and the Train of Death
Dr. Leticia McGrath
Our poster presentation focuses on a global issue that was introduced to us in the documentary Which Way Home, which explores the harsh reality of many Central American children who travel alone atop a train called “La Bestia” in order to immigrate into the United States.

12. ERIC IRISH, ALEX NICHOLSON, and KELVIN ROSADO
Exploring the Changing Role of Women in Two Spanish Civil War Films: Belle Époque and Las Trece Rosas
Dr. Leticia McGrath
Belle Époque captures changing ideas regarding gender roles in Spain on the brink of its civil war; Las Trece Rosas depicts thirteen women struggling to be heard in Spain’s post-war partisan clash. Our presentation focuses on women’s changing roles in the Spanish Civil War as depicted in these films.

13. MELINA GUNBY, KAYLA ALLEN, and NICOLLETTE TODD
Irish Trans-Atlantic Influence in Savannah during the 1800s
Dr. Steven Engel
The main focus of our research is the Irish-American culture and experiences during the 1800s in the South through the representation of Irish in Northern and Southern newspaper and print, and the median of music. Although Irish music affected American music, traditional Irish music was still retained.

14. HANNAH CORDERY, JESSE MOSELY, and JANAE BONE
Irish Americans in the Civil War
Dr. Steven Engel
The most represented minority group in the Civil War were the Irish Americans. This report looks closer at the thousands of Irish volunteers who enlisted for both the Union and Confederate armies, with a special focus on the Irish Jasper Greens unit out of Savannah.

15. MEAGAN PARTRIDGE, EMILY DEYTON, and ALEXANDRA THOMPSON
Savannah Irish Identity
Dr. Steven Engel
Irish-Americans created a strong community during the 19th century through social, political, and religious organizations. The efforts of the Hibernian Society of Savannah, the Ladies Land League, and the Irish Catholic Church helped immigrants assimilate into American culture. These organizations impressed charity, open-mindedness, and interdependence in the Irish-American community.
16. LAUREN DISS, LIZZIE GEDDY, and VERNON HERRINGTON
Slavery: Shifting Views of the Irish in Savannah
Dr. Steven Engel

Before the Civil War, many of the Irish in Savannah opposed Daniel O'Connell's anti-slavery sentiments. Yet, after the war O'Connell’s place as a hero among the Irish of Savannah was restored. Our poster uncovers the reasons for the Irish-Americans’ change in opinion from pre- to post-Civil War.

17. AMANDA SEXTON, JONATHAN NIPPER, and HUNTER COPELAN
Religion and the Irish Diaspora: An Examination of Catholics and Protestants
Dr. Steven Engel

In the late 1800s, a flood of Irish immigrants, mostly Catholic, began searching for a new home in the predominantly Protestant United States. How did religion affect the Irish integration?

18. SAMANTHA PENTA, GARRETT CHAPMAN, and JACOB TURNER
The Economics of the Southern Irish American
Dr. Steven Engel

In the 19th century, Irish Americans in Savannah were largely relegated to the bottom of the southern economy, as members of the unskilled labor force and women as domestic servants. However, some found great success in the South which continued to grow throughout their family’s generations.
JAIME GRINCH  
Justice Studies  
Personal Perceptions of Privacy and Security  
Dr. Adam Bossler

The US government is utilizing multiple controversial methods to detect and prevent terrorism. Do government officers such as police view these programs differently than university students? Surveys given to the groups provided their respective opinions on these programs, suggesting that police are more open to their use.

E. FEAGIN OLIVER  
English  
“That Flesh-locked Sea of Silence”: Language, Gender, and Sexuality in Beckett’s Short Fiction  
Dr. Joe Pellegrino

This paper asserts the interconnectedness of language, gender, and sexuality in the short prose of Samuel Beckett. “Assumption,” “First Love,” and “Enough,” are used as specific examples of Beckett’s fiction, selected because they assist in understanding Beckett’s participation in, and inversion of, the hegemonic privileging of the masculine. This interpretation focuses on the use of gendered language, verbalization as a sexual expression, and the manipulation of the “male” and “female” voice. The analysis is both informed by, and seeks to nuance, the linguistic criticism established by second-wave French feminists Kristeva, Irigaray, and Cixous.
BRANDEN GREEN  International Trade
What Happens When You Host World’s Largest Party: The Political Impact of Hosting FIFA’s World Cup
Dr. Darin Van Tassell
This research is a comparative study of the political impact the World Cup has on host countries. It examines the impact for a developed country compared to a developing country. The research supports that developing countries are affected more by the tournament than developed countries.

CAITLIN ROBERTSON  International Studies
Wandering the World without Leaving Your Chair: Crossing Borders through eSports
Dr. Darin Van Tassell
There is a deafening roar as a point is scored. This may seem like a scene from any sports event, but it isn't. Welcome to the world of eSports. My research focuses on the eSport League of Legends. This research focuses on a new medium in an increasingly interconnected world.

COURTNEY TIELKING  International Studies and Spanish
Citizenship Without Borders: Understanding Empathy and Domestic Direct Service as Powerful Approaches to Making Global Connections that Matter
Dr. Darin Van Tassell
By unraveling a case study on Georgia Southern University’s Alternative Break program, this research examines the relationship between empathy and globalization. The research suggests that through empathy and direct service, one can become a global citizen without ever leaving their hometown. Through empathy, the mind and heart can travel anywhere.

CAMERON FERIANTE  Chemistry
TEMPO-Containing ROMP Polymers and a Component for Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injuries
Dr. Hans-Joerg Schanz
Polynitroxylated Pegylated Hemoglobin (PNPH), a traumatic brain injury treatment, combines cell-free hemoglobin with TEMPO and polyethylene glycol. PNPH's require an intensive synthesis, and difficult analysis. This project focuses on the development of TEMPO functionalized ROMP monomers and polymers, later to be incorporated in a PEG and TEMPO containing co-polymer.

KRISTIN WALKER  Chemistry
Magnetically Responsive, Antibody Targeted Gold Nanorods for the Removal of Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Dr. John Stone
Gold nanoparticle complexes continue to be utilized as novel therapeutic materials. We are dual functionalizing gold nanorods with iron oxide and an antibody specific to the bacteria Pseudomonas aeruginosa. This medicinal composite is being investigated for its ability to target and subsequently remove the bacterium Pseudomonas aeruginosa from a solution-based environment.

MADELINE SMITH  Chemistry
Modified Lignin for Composite and Pellet Binder Applications
Dr. Rafael Quirino
Lignin is a naturally occurring polymer that is present in plants. We investigated various processes to chemically modify lignin in order to increase its processability. The free radical polymerization of modified lignin yields highly cross-linked materials, with properties compatible with applications as a pellet binder and as a thermosetting resin.
EMILY HALL  
**Accounting**
A Look at the Gender Wage Gap and its Reach into the Field of Accounting  
Dr. LeVon Wilson

The gender wage gap recently has received greater attention. This study looks at several possible causes behind lower pay for women as well as solutions, both attempted and proposed. The field of accounting is focused on specifically and referenced throughout the study.

STEPHANIE GRATTO  
**Accounting**
The Formation of a Student-Athlete Trust Fund: Compliance and Tax Implications  
Dr. Britton McKay

This study reviews the possible tax and compliance issues of a student athlete trust fund as proposed in the case O’Bannon v. NCAA. With the possibility of the creation of a trust fund comes a myriad of issues to consider.

STEPHANIE SIMPSON  
**Accounting**
An Exploration of Income Characteristics: Analyzing Targets and Acquirers in Banking Mergers and Acquisitions  
Dr. Allissa Lee

This research analyzes the income characteristics of targets and acquirers to determine any indicators that distinguish an acquirer’s income structure from a target’s. To do this, income statement items from these banking entities are examined using factors such as size, serial or nonserial classification, and (for the targets only) public or private status.

LAURA SMITH  
**Writing and Linguistics**
Lockwood  
Jared Yates Sexton

Lockwood is a collection of linked short stories in the genre of fiction. Set in a small, southern town of the same name, the stories focus on five people after a violent crime takes place and addresses themes of race, class, gender, and small town mentality.

PARRISH TURNER  
**Writing and Linguistics**
Can it be a Sin to Know? An Adaptation of Mary Shelley’s Classic Work: Frankenstein  
Lisa Abbott and Dr. Margaret Sullivan

This play is a retelling of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein. It explores Frankenstein as a man struggling with his asexuality. His creation is an object for desire. The work explores theories about bodies, gender, religious sexuality, queer theory, and what can happen when given the chance to confront the maker.

TAYLOR TYSON  
**Writing and Linguistics**
The Jungle Down the Street, the Town Across the Bridge, All is Very Well  
Emma Bolden

“'The Jungle Down the Street, the Town Across the Bridge, All is Very Well” is a series of short, nonfiction essays. Focused around the town of Apalachicola, Florida, it addresses themes of family, folklore, and tragedy through the use of humor, anecdote, and historical research.'
DANIEL L. ALLEN, JR.  Biology
Carbon Dioxide Sensory Receptors in Two Disjunct Populations of the Pitcher Plant Mosquito, Wyeomyia smithii.
Dr. William S. Irby

The pitcher-plant mosquito, Wyeomyia smithii, utilizes carbon dioxide receptors to seek potential hosts for blood meals. Two disjunct populations of W. smithii were analyzed for differences in CO2 sensitivity using a dual-choice olfactometer. Results indicate a difference between the two populations in accordance with known blood feeding behaviors.

JENNIFER TYSON  Biology
Relative Abundances of the Recently Introduced Barnacles, Megabalanus coccopoma and an Unidentified Species of Megabalanus, in the Southeastern U.S.
Dr. Scott Harrison

While studying the genetic diversity of invasive Megabalanus coccopoma barnacle, several individuals of an unidentified Megabalanus species were found. This study provided an estimate of the population size and distribution of both the unknown species and M. coccopoma through creating an accurate distinction of the two species using genetic analysis.

SHANNON KAHN  Biology
Divergence of Vertebrate and Insect Specific Toxin Genes between Three Species of Widow Spider
Dr. John Scott Harrison

All widow spiders produce venom composed of several different protein toxins. Previous research indicates positive selection pressures drive evolution of venom of snakes and snails. The study being presented found and analyzed nucleotide and amino acid divergence between three species of widow spiders, indicating the possibility of functional differences.

HANNAH CHICOWLAS  Nursing
The Effects of Latent Stage Diabetic Education and Tele-Health Reinforcement on the Knowledge of Low-Income Diabetic Patients
Margaret Mossholder

This comparative pilot study utilized tele-health as a form of educational reinforcement for 6 low-income participants from a local clinic. Two follow-up phone conversations were made to assess the participant’s retention. This pilot study suggests, with improvement, this study could strongly support the use of tele-health on diabetes education reinforcement.

KARIN KVAM  Nursing
Barriers to Music Therapy in the Care of those with Alzheimer’s/Dementia
Dr. Linda Upchurch

This pilot study examines the barriers caregivers encounter when implementing music therapy in the care of those with Alzheimer’s/dementia. Results indicate that although the majority of caregivers report using music therapy, it is not implemented as frequently as it could or should be, primarily due to knowledge deficit.
SESSION III
THESIS PRESENTATIONS
2:45 PM to 3:45 PM

SHELBY HERRIN  Recreation
Application of Heritage Tourism Development Frameworks to Jenkins County, Georgia
Dr. Svitlana Iarmolenko and Dr. James D. Bigley
This study combines Gunn’s Functioning Tourism System framework and Jamal and Getz’s community collaboration method to develop effective tourism promotion plans for Millen, Jenkins County, Georgia. The results of the study provided the city with day-trip itineraries to Millen, a self-guided brochure of downtown Millen and plans for future development.

DYLAN MULLIGAN  History
The Original Progressive Farmer: The Agricultural Legacy of Thomas Spalding of Sapelo
Jonathan Bryant
This study examines the agricultural experiments of Thomas Spalding of Sapelo (1774-1851), who was arguably Georgia’s foremost scientific agrarian. Spalding made significant contributions to the development of sugar cane, Sea Island cotton, crop rotation and diversification, and tabby, and yet his endeavors have gone largely unnoticed by most historians.
JENNA FLORENCE  International Trade  
**Buy American: An Introspective Look into National Corporate Consciousness**  
Dr. Darin Van Tassell  
My research is focused in examining product perceptions and the importance of national identity on the marketability of foreign and domestic products. I am interested in determining whether globalization has weakened an individual’s sense of national identity and whether that changes their preference for purchasing a foreign and/or domestic product.

MARISSA McCOMBER  Political Science and International Studies  
**“If It Ain’t Broke, Don’t Fix It”? : Analyzing the Politics of the UN Security Council and the Viability of the Group of Four’s Proposal for Reform**  
Dr. Barry Balleck  
The Security Council’s mandate provides the authority to maintain international peace and security. Unfortunately, its permanent members do not represent the world’s changing power. This study analyzes the history of the Council, efforts for reform, and the body’s legitimacy by analyzing Brazil’s bid for permanent representation through the G4 proposal.

NICOLE PUCKETT  International Studies  
**How to Get an American Boyfriend: Japanese Women and Westernization**  
Dr. Darin Van Tassell  
This research focuses on Japanese women and how they use international experience and changes in appearance to look western or Anglo-European as a means of defining their individual identities. Women also work balancing those changes with their prescribed roles as mothers and homemakers.

ANDREW ROBERTSON  Electrical Engineering  
**Chromatic Dispersion Monitoring in Fiber Optic Networks**  
Dr. Rami Haddad  
Chromatic Dispersion monitoring is a very important topic in the field of fiber optics. We propose a technique to monitor Chromatic Dispersion by approximating the received bits as a Gaussian distribution and using the mean and variance of the distribution to predict the amount of chromatic dispersion present.

TYLER HEDGES  Mechanical Engineering  
**Green Recycling- Fabrication of Nano-Engineered Advanced Aluminum Alloy with Aluminum Machining Chips Using Friction Stir Extrusion Processing**  
Dr. Shaowen Xu  
Friction stir extrusion is a single-step solid state process for fabricating aluminum wiring without melting the aluminum, instead relying on a turning tool applying friction to aid in extrusion. This process of recycling aluminum chips was studied, and a small wire was able to be produced and studied.
EMILY CHIZMAR  Mathematics  
Gallai-Ramsey and Vertex Proper Connection Numbers  
Dr. Colton Magnant  
Given a graph G, we consider two situations. First we consider a variation on the Gallai-Ramsey number using exactly k colors. Second we introduce the vertex proper connection number and provide a relationship to the chromatic number of minimally connected subgraphs.

ZO HAYNES  Mathematics and Theatre  
Drawing Numbers and Listening to Patterns  
Dr. Hua Wang and Jim Braselton  
This is a study of patterns found when applying a lattice to the Central Polygonal Numbers. We employed elementary number theory to justify these patterns and used the patterns to create images similar to those found in digital topology as well as to create music.

JULIAN HERSHEY  Physics  
Dynamics of Galactic Disks in Evolving Triaxial Dark Matter Halos  
Dr. Clayton Heller  
We examine the response of galactic disks to a changing triaxial potential. Under specific conditions, the embedded disk becomes unstable, tilts, and undergoes precession. This leads to shearing and a final spherical distribution of stars. However, with the inclusion of gas, the disk can remain planar and continue to precess.

ALLISON HEISKELL  Excercise Science  
The Relationship Between Trait Anxiety and Optimism Levels in College-Aged Individuals  
Dr. Daniel Czech  
The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between competitive trait anxiety and optimism in college students. It was found that a statistically significant negative correlation existed between competitive trait anxiety and optimism, which confirmed the hypothesis.

KATELYN WEHNER  Excercise Science  
An Examination of Competitiveness between Gender, Race, and School Classification of Millennial Students - An Exploratory Study  
Dr. Daniel Czech  
The purpose of this exploratory study was to compare competitiveness levels between gender, race, and age of students within the Millennial Generation. The design was a quantitative, quasi-experimental, cross-sectional descriptive study utilizing demographic questionnaires and sport orientation questionnaires. Results revealed significance within all three categories.

NICHOLAS WOOD  Excercise Science  
A Qualitative Examination of Optimal Professional Traits of a Physical Therapist - An Exploratory Investigation  
Dr. Daniel Czech  
Physical therapists are constantly searching for aspects of their professional practice to improve, in order to enhance their interactions with patients. This study describes optimal qualities necessary for a successful physical therapy practice in rural and metropolitan areas.
DANA SYLVESTRE  
**Biology**

Determination of the *Dermacentor variabilis* Ferritin Gene Exon and Intron Structure

Dr. Quentin Q. Fang

Ferritin protein metabolizes iron in ticks. This project studied the organization of the *D. variabilis* ferritin H-chain gene. By comparing the gene’s genomic region, obtained through PCR and cloning, with the cDNA, it was discovered that the *D. variabilis* ferritin H-chain gene coding region contains two introns and three exons.

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GRANT BARNETT  
**Biology**

Hepatic Gene Expression in Pups Exposed to 2-aminoanthracene in Utero Indicative of Susceptibility to Metabolic Syndrome

Dr. Eric Gato and Dr. Vinoth Sittaramane

2-aminoanthracene is an aromatic amine that has been shown to have harmful effects when ingested by lab animals. This project will find the effects of 2-aminoanthracene on the in utero pups after ingestion by the dams and will explore the histology and genes expressed in the liver as a result.

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JACOB MAUCERI  
**Biology**

Activating the MSH2/MSH6 Apoptotic Pathway in Cancer Cells Using Non-Reserpine Compounds

Andrew Diamanduros

DNA mismatch repair is a highly conserved process that is essential to the maintenance of genetic integrity and stability within the cell. Specialized mismatch repair proteins (MSH2/MSH6) are responsible for the identification and repair of DNA mismatch damage, but can be recruited to induce programmed cell death within cancer cells.

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AMBER BLAZER  
**Psychology**

Coloring Expression Perception: An Attempt at Altering the Automatic Perception of Strangers

Dr. Shauna Joye

A two part study investigating the effect of colors black and white on the perception of strangers. Study one examined faces surrounded in black and white to see if faces in black were perceived as more aggressive. Study two examined how wearing these colors might further impact perception of strangers.

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NATASHA LABALLE  
**Psychology**

The Benefits of Religious Fundamentalism

Dr. Michael E. Nielsen

Using experimental methodology, we analyzed the benefits of religious fundamentalism. Our primary analyses suggest that there is a positive relationship between religious fundamentalism and spiritual well-being and a negative relationship between religious fundamentalism and religious doubts. Furthermore, our exploratory analyses suggest potential relationships between religious fundamentalism and other dependent variables.

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STACIA FRITZ  
**Psychology**

Using the Stroop Effect to Examine the Effect of Words to Which Humans are Sensitive on Cognitive Conflict

Dr. Janice Steirn

The purpose of experiment one was to test the effects of drink consumed and stimuli shown on cognitive conflict. There was a significant effect on stimulus. The purpose of experiment two was to test the effects of emotional stimuli on cognitive conflict. No significant results regarding a difference between stimuli were found.
MIKE OFILI
Civil Engineering
State of the Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) in the
United States
Dr. Junsuk Kang

The purpose of this project is to develop a toolkit for the design and construction of bridges using prefabricated materials primarily to reduce the closure time and on-site construction time of newly constructed bridges or bridges undergoing renovation. The research focuses specifically on short span bridges in Georgia.

ZACH STRICKLAND
Civil Engineering
Learning from CINARA: Exploring the Depths of Participatory Water Engagement in Cali, Colombia
Dr. Ashley Coles

CINARA is a Colombian academic institution with decades of experience regarding participatory approaches to water supply and environmental sanitation. This thesis explores the significance of CINARA’s experience, as well as factors that have enabled and inhibited CINARA. Examining these factors can provide lessons for others interested in participatory work.
KEENYA RIGGINS  Chemistry  
Academic Motivation of students in Chemistry 1145 courses at Georgia Southern University 
Jessica Orvis

The Chemistry 1145 courses are considered intricate, and by the end of said courses, many students typically change majors. Using a non-experimental design, which included a survey of 41, an attempt was made to find out what motivates students taking this course at Georgia Southern University to continue or discontinue taking other chemistry courses.

KRISTEN TILLMAN  Early Childhood Education  
Parental Influences on College Students’ Career Aspirations 
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, Dr. Lina Soares, Dr. Yasar Bodur

The purpose of this study was to investigate the level of influence that parents of pre-service teachers had on their children’s career decision making process. Using both surveys and interviews, data were collected from pre-service teachers to find patterns of parental influence among children of educators vs. children of non-educators.

STEPHANIE DORMINEY  Middle Grades Education  
Arts-Integration in a Middle Grades Social Studies Classroom 
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson, Dr. Lina Soares, Dr. Yasar Bodur

This study investigated if implementing arts-integration in a middle grades history classroom influenced student learning and satisfaction in Social Studies. Data included pre-test and post-test scores and an open-ended survey. Findings indicated even though arts-integration did not lead to higher student achievement, it impacted student engagement positively.

KAITLYN HANLEY  Biology  
Twenty Year Comparison of Reproduction of Gopherus polyphemus (Gopher Tortoise) and Habitat Characteristics between Two Sites of Differing Fire Management Plans 
Dr. David Rostal

The gopher tortoise, Gopherus polyphemus, is a keystone species in the long leaf wiregrass system and populations can be found at Fort Stewart Army Reserve and George L. Smith State Park. This study analyzes reproduction of the two populations, use of habitat, and their dependency on management by fire.

KYMBREANA COLEY  Biology  
Identification Guide to Larval Stages of Ticks of Medical Importance in the USA 
Dr. Lance A. Durden

Scanning Electron Micrographs were prepared of four morphologically diagnostic regions (dorsal capitulum, ventral capitulum, scutum, leg coxa) for the larval stage of the 16 species of ixodid (hard) ticks known to parasitize humans in the USA. Based on the morphological characters observed, a dichotomous identification key was prepared.

MADISON BAJC  Biology  
A Survey of the Prevalence of Intestinal Parasites in Semi-Feral Cat Populations in Bulloch County, Ga.  
Dr. Michelle Cawthorn

As free-roaming opportunistic predators, feral cats’ habits lead to parasitic infection and the establishment of a source of zoonotic pathogens. Through fecal analysis and statistical comparison, this study provides information on the frequency and prevalence of parasites. The significance of feline zoonoses and the public health implications are addressed.
This paper analyzes the impact of the global financial crisis on cross-border long-term security flows from and towards the U.S. The findings show that the global financial crisis impacted all cross-border capital flows in the analysis; yet, the timing and the significance of the impact varies among the different securities.

Many countries put a huge emphasis on hosting/bidding for an Olympics Games. We examine the benefits that these countries get from hosting an Olympic Games. Additionally, we investigate the influences that hosting an Olympic Games has on that country’s gross domestic product per capita and their levels of international trade.
Sarah Dunn  
Biology  
Parasite Infection Mediates Trait Tradeoffs in Fundulus heteroclitus  
Dr. Tavis Anderson

To be successful, an organism must eat, grow, and reproduce. With limited resources, there are tradeoffs between these life history parameters. Using a fish system, I measured reproductive investment, parasitism, and fish condition. In a stressed condition, fish invested in reproduction over immunity and maintenance of body condition.

Charles J. Elmore  
Biology  
Sugar Use Profiles to Inform Host Relationships and Spread of Spiroplasma Bacteria  
Dr. Laura Regassa

Spiroplasma is a ubiquitous genus of helical bacteria. It has a wide host range and has been shown to be pathogenic in some cases. Understanding metabolic limitations may help to define host ranges in a geographically diverse sampling of spiroplasma.

Rachel Luoma  
Biology  
The Effects of Digestion on Innate Immunity  
Dr. Zachary Stahlschmidt

The effects of digestion on the immune system have been widely understudied. I hypothesized that digesting animals would upregulate or downregulate innate immune function. I tested these using a hemoagglutination-hemolysis assay at two digestive states. I found that hemoagglutination was higher at 1dpf and females had higher hemolysis at 7dpf.

Katie D. Phillips  
Interior Design  
Evidence Based Design in Healthcare: An Applied Study on the Impacts of Interior Design for a Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Center  
Amy Boyett

Cerebral palsy, caused by damage to the brain, involves a variety of symptoms regarding loss or impairment of motor functions unique to the person and is best treated by therapy. This project focuses on a cerebral palsy rehabilitation center and uses evidence based design to apply current trends to the interior design of the space.

Tracy-Ann Griffiths  
Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design  
The Death of Modesty: How the Decline in the Church’s Influence along with Social and Cultural Factors in the Twentieth Century Directed Changing Views of Modesty in America  
Dr. Mary Beth Myers

Modesty in America has changed dramatically since the early twentieth century. This paper serves to show that a combination of a decline in the influence of the church, as well as social and cultural factors of the twentieth century, helped shape the standards of what modesty in America is today.

Shannon Michelle Griffin  
Interior Design  
Sustainable Design in the Healthcare Environment  
Amy Boyett

Sustainable Interior Design can be effectively used to promote the quality of life, wellness, and safety of all people in a healthcare facility from workers to patients, and it also promotes the wellness of the environment. A presentation of the social, environmental, and economical benefits of a sustainable healthcare facility.

Sarahr Dunn  
Biology  
Parasite Infection Mediates Trait Tradeoffs in Fundulus heteroclitus  
Dr. Tavis Anderson

To be successful, an organism must eat, grow, and reproduce. With limited resources, there are tradeoffs between these life history parameters. Using a fish system, I measured reproductive investment, parasitism, and fish condition. In a stressed condition, fish invested in reproduction over immunity and maintenance of body condition.
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 civil responsibility. A hallmark of the program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning, and service learning opportunities.

The University Honors Program at Georgia Southern University rests on the foundation of the following ideals that are inspired by the institution’s emphasis on engaged learning.

**A CRITICAL SENSE OF INQUIRY**

Honors students will explore a variety of approaches to research designed to foster the pursuit of knowledge. Students will develop the ability to question with a healthy skepticism toward accepted opinion. The culmination of the undergraduate experience is an independent research or creative project designed to exemplify a critical approach to inquiry.

**THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY**

Honors students will embrace the idea that creativity is a virtue that should be experienced by all students, regardless of discipline. This spirit involves a respect for different ways of knowing and an openness to intellectual discussion and challenge.

**CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

Honors students will demonstrate an ethic of civic responsibility and exemplify the motto of the program, “Humility before Honor.” Students will be challenged to use their abilities and talents for the advancement of humanity and the pursuit of a greater good. The primary vehicle for the expression of civic responsibility is through service both to the university and the community.

**A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE**

Honors students will develop a perspective which allows them to approach their chosen discipline from an international point of view. This outlook involves the critical exploration of global concerns and proposed solutions to international problems. Honors education provides this worldwide perspective through academic courses, study abroad opportunities and co-curricular experiences.