Fall 2015

Honors Research Symposium Program Fall 2015

University Honors Program Students and Staff

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Nessmith-Lane Conference Center

RECEPTION
Room 2911
Welcome
Dr. Steven Engel

5:45 pm to 6:15 pm

THESIS/CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS
Rooms 2901, 2904, and 2905
Session I
Session II

6:15 pm to 7:50 pm

6:15 pm to 7:00 pm
7:05 pm to 7:50 pm

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLIONS
7:55 pm to 8:15 pm
Courtney Hartman..............................................Early Childhood Education
Teacher Influence on Elementary School Students’ Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

The purpose of this study is to explore the influence of elementary school teachers on encouraging students’ interest and participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The researcher used a mixed methods study to understand what methods teachers use in their classrooms to encourage students to participate in STEM subjects and programs.

Angela Winters.................................................................History
Sex and Law: The Making of the New Englishman, 1860-1920
Dr. Robert Batchelor

Scholarship of the first wave of feminism, occurring between 1860 and 1920, often neglects to address the fact that despite the efforts of the campaigners for women’s rights, it was men of influence that eventually changed British law in favor of the feminists’ agendas.

Lyndsey E. Shelton.......................................................International Studies
X-Men, Dragon Age, and Religion: Representations of Religion and the Religious in Comic Books, Video Games, and Their Related Media
Dr. Darin H. Van Tassell

Have you ever noticed Superman confide in a pastor? Have you ever seen Iron Man talk about God? What about an out of place cross or religious reference in a video game? Take a look at what comic books and video games have to say about religion and the religious.

Rachel Neuhauser.........................................................Sociology
Making Sense of the Distrust of the Chinese Government in Light of China’s Successes in Economic Modernization
Dr. Pidi Zhang

This presentation characterizes China’s modernization experiences while providing insight to the lack of political legitimacy that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) faces. Political legitimacy is evaluated using Chinese understandings of the phenomenon. This presentation examines both the domestic and the international implications of the CCP’s political situation.

Courtney Hartman..............................................Early Childhood Education
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Justin Yun.................................................................Recreation
Situational Influences on Experiences of Long Trail Hikers: An Application of Means-End Theory
Dr. John Peden

Long distance hiking trails like the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, and Continental Divide Trail span a collective distance of about eight thousand miles of recreational trail. This study aims to differentiate the benefits and motivation between hikers and through-hikers of these trails.

Julie Swantek..............................................................Recreation & Tourism Management
The Influence of Group Development on Stress Appraisal and Coping Responses of Expedition Trip Leaders
Dr. John Peden

The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between Tuckman’s stages of group development, stress appraisal, and coping responses among trip leaders of multi-day wilderness expeditions. More specifically, the study will investigate how stress appraisal and coping vary among trip leaders at different stages of group development.
Spencer Price...Psychology
The Effects of Size and Principal Axis Difference Ratio on the Use of Featural and Geometric Cues
Dr. Kent D. Bodily

Enclosure size has been shown to affect an animal’s reliance on featural and geometric cues when reorienting in space. Previous research has shown that humans and animals rely primarily on geometric cues in smaller enclosures, and on featural cues in larger enclosures. The multiple-bearings hypothesis predicts that directional information is more discriminable than distance information when landmarks are farther away from a goal. As the size of the environment increased, the distance information was less discernible than featural information. In the current study, we tested to see if the reliance on geometry changes across enclosure size. Three different Principal Axis Difference (PAD) Ratios were used to manipulate the salience of the geometric cues across three different enclosure sizes. We predicted that if the PAD ratio was high, then participants would primarily use geometric cues to reorient themselves. The results suggest that PAD ratio manipulations affected participant’s reliance on geometric cues, and that participants consistently relied on featural cues when those were present.

Melissa C. Hinely...Psychology
Understanding Emotion in Relation to Drinking Motivation
Dr. Jessica J. Brooks

Little research has been done regarding the impact of emotion on implicit cognitions. This longitudinal study sought to examine how personalized emotion inductions would impact implicit alcohol associations over time. In an undergraduate population, implicit alcohol cognitions were found to correlate with problematic drinking practices, impulsivity, and several drinking motives.

Lindsey Wells...Biology
The Behavioral Response of Culex erraticus to Different Snake Odors
Dr. William Irby

Eastern equine encephalitis virus reappears each spring and infects both animals and humans. Culex erraticus mosquitoes and snakes may play important roles in the over-wintering of the virus. Various bioassays were completed to determine the behavioral response of Culex erraticus to the odors of different snake species.

Sarabeth Porter...Mathematics
Directed Proper Connection of Graphs
Dr. Colton Magnant

An edge-colored directed graph is called properly connected if, between every pair of vertices, there is a properly colored directed path. We study some conditions on directed graphs which guarantee the existence of a coloring that is properly connected. We also study conditions on a colored directed graph which guarantee that the coloring is properly connected.

Kyle Mahoney...Physics/Pre-Medicine
Synthesis and Characterization of Nanoparticle-Coupled Proteins in Human Serum Albumin
Dr. Li Ma

The primary goal of this study was to modify nitroxyl-decorated human serum albumin to stabilize Paclitaxel in order to synthesize a spin-albumin-stabilized Paclitaxel nanoparticle that will act as a cancer carrying protein with improved targeting of hypoxic tumor cores for cancer drug delivery.
Connor Kasten.........................................................Economics and Finance
The Environmental Kuznets Curve for the European Union
Dr. Jaehyuk Lee

The environmental Kuznets curve shows that as an economy grows, the amount of environmental degradation increases to a point and then decreases creating an inverted “U” curve. After using regression analysis for the countries within the European Union, we found that the relationship does not hold true.

Rebecca Henderson ..........................................................Accounting
South Korea’s Transition From K-GAAP to IFRS
Dr. Leslie Fletcher

This paper discusses research performed in Daegu, South Korea on the cultural effects on the speed of Korea’s transition between accounting principles. A survey was administered to business students studying at Keimyung University.

Victoria Neuhauser ..........................................................Management
Examining the Interplay of Supervisor and Subordinate Leadership Style in the Performance Evaluation Process
Dr. Feruzan Irani Williams

The purpose of this study is to determine if differences in leadership behavior preferences in subordinates and supervisors can lead to quantitative differences in performance evaluation scores. The findings of the study have cultural implications in terms of creating an appraisal system that is perceived to be fair and acceptable.

Tyler Rogers..........................................................Psychology
Color Me, Please: How Color-emotion Stimulus Pairs Affect Our Perceptions
Dr. Shauna Joye

Color-emotion pairings are part of everyday experience. Emotional experiences are stronger when emotional stimuli are paired with sensory stimuli. The presence of these sensory stimuli heightens the experience of emotional stimuli, so such pairings should allow manipulation of color-emotion pairings through the presence of a color during an emotional situation.

Alicia Carter..........................................................Psychology and Sociology
The Effects of Mindfulness on Affect and Substance Use
Dr. Jessica J. Brooks

Previous studies have explored the impact of mindfulness on personality traits, personality disorders, and alcohol use. However, the practical application of mindfulness has been complicated by contradictory findings and conceptualizations in the literature. The present study investigated potential relationships between types of mindfulness, facets of mindfulness, substance use, and affect.
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.

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.