University Honors Research Symposium Programs

Fall 2018

Honors Research Symposium Program Fall 2018

University Honors Program, Georgia Southern University

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RECEPTION
Room 2911
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm

WELCOME
Room 2911
5:45 pm

THESIS PRESENTATIONS
Rooms 2903, 2904, 2905, 2908
Session 1 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Session 2 7:05 pm - 8:05 pm
Thesis presentations feature graduating seniors who are delivering oral presentations of the results of their Honors Thesis work. Every honors student, in order to graduate as an honors scholar, must complete an Honors Thesis or Project. As the titles and abstracts in this program indicate, these projects span the realms of inquiry and creativity available here at Georgia Southern University. Also listed in this program are the faculty mentors who have worked with each of these students, providing advice, support, and mentorship as the students have completed these projects.

Enjoy the Symposium

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

The University Honors Program provides a small college atmosphere in the context of a large comprehensive university. The program is designed to foster the development of a critical sense of inquiry, a spirit of creativity, a global perspective, and an ethic of civic responsibility. A hallmark of the program is the emphasis on bringing ideas to life through undergraduate research, experiential learning, and service-learning opportunities.
Hannah Dorough Psychology
Vulnerable Narcissism and First-Person Singular Pronoun Use
Dr. Nicholas Holtzman

Who talks about themselves most frequently? Recent research has explored the top correlates of self-focused language use: depression and negative emotionality. Using survey methodology and a large sample of college students (valid N = 471), this study demonstrated a novel correlation between vulnerable narcissism and first-person, singular pronoun use.

Christina Morris Psychology
Mental Health Stigma and Help-Seeking in a College Sample: Barriers and Potential Motivators for Action
Dr. Jessica J. Brooks

This study has two aims: (1) To examine the relationships between mental wellbeing, internalized stigma, and help-seeking attitudes, and (2) To explore why students are not reaching out for psychological help if they need it, and what would make them more likely to utilize the services available to them.

Bethany Johnson Psychology
The Relationship Between Masculinity and Stigma: Predicting Help-Seeking Behaviors in Men
Dr. C. Thresa Yancey

Based on the stigma associated with men’s mental health, the purpose of this study is to gain knowledge of help-seeking behaviors in men while evaluating the influences of masculinity and stigma on these help seeking practices.
Sara Alemar Barrientos  Biology
The Effects of Tetrakis (hydroxymethyl) phosphonium chloride (THPC) on Leaf Decomposition and Microbial Communities
Dr. Checo Colon-Gaud

Mesocosms were used to test the impacts of THPC on decomposition and invertebrates. Leaf-packs were placed in tanks two weeks prior to adding treatments. One replicate was removed to assess initial conditions. After adding THPC, the remaining replicates were removed after fourteen days. The results suggest that THPC had no significant impacts.

Morgan Gallahue  Biology
Trematodes and Neorickettsia
Dr. Stephen Greiman

Neorickettsia, a genus of bacteria, causes several diseases in a variety of vertebrates. Neorickettsia is known to be transmitted by digenean trematodes, but the dispersal of Neorickettsia is not well known. This study aims to increase knowledge of the dispersal of digeneans and Neorickettsia in eastern Mongolia.

Charissa Simpson  Biology
Functional Morphology of the Coral Catshark Atelomycterus marmoratus Electrosensory System
Dr. Christine Bedore

Behavioral responses to electric fields vary among elasmobranch species. Differences are often attributed to differences in ecology, which is related to the morphology of their electrosensory systems. This study determined the pore location and density and the behavioral response to prey-simulating electrical signals of the coral catshark, Atelomycterus marmoratus.
Cadence Dwyer
Analysis of the Economic Development of Statesboro, Georgia’s Blue Mile: A Structural Approach for Diversification
Dr. Anthony Barilla

Business diversification is consistently labeled as a major goal for the development of an area, especially for downtown revitalization. Using various qualitative analyses and Burayidi’s Scorecard as a format, a new test is proposed to determine the diversity of a downtown and show which areas need to be improved.

Emilie Jones
An Investigation of Web Atmospherics in Online Luxury Branding
Dr. Lindsay Larson

Having an online presence for a retail store has transitioned from serving as simply a new avenue through which a profit can be made to a tool that can be harnessed to express a brand’s personality. The intention of this research is to identify whether luxury brands are currently taking advantage of differential web atmospherics cues in a way that significantly sets them apart from non-luxury brand websites.

Matthew Keane
Predicting Thrill Seeking Behaviors
& Intermodal Transportation
Dr. Jacqueline Eastman

Known as the type-T personality, extreme sensation-seeking individuals constantly seek out new experiences that will stimulate their mind and frequently find their thrill by participating in extreme sports. The goal of this study is to determine various factors that will influence an individual’s thrill seeking behaviors by analyzing how the variables of risk aversion, status consumption, innovativeness, and social media use affect an individual’s adventure seeking tendencies.
**Rachel Doggett**  
*Writing & Linguistics*  
**Survival Tips Gleaned from Birds**  
*Professor Christina Olson*

*Survival Tips Gleaned from Birds* is a chapbook of confessional poetry based on the poet’s experiences studying abroad for a semester in England. These poems present a journey narrative in linear, chronological order in which the speaker undergoes a spiritual and psychological transformation.

**Bria Jones**  
*Writing & Linguistics*  
**Charon’s Coins**  
*Professor Laura Valeri*

Shrouded in a black cloak and mystery, Charon has silently ferried souls across the River Styx to the afterlife. With the Peloponnesian war raging, the ancient mariner finds his boat at full capacity with a unique group, including a young priestess with an affinity for the afterlife.

**Marian Trainor**  
*Art*  
**The A.H. Kotz Unnatrual History Exhibit**  
*Professor Marc Moulton*

An exploration in two parts into the development of a narrative through manufactured evidence designed specifically to encourage the suspense of disbelief. The physical work exists within a faux anthropological museum exhibition focused around a human whose history and existence is entirely fabricated. The structural work is the layers of historical and practical research used to develop the suggestion of reality.
SESSION 2
THESIS PRESENTATIONS
7:05 PM - 8:05 PM
Amy Rustine  
Early Childhood Education

Developing Identity Among Third Culture Kids  
Dr. Meca Williams-Johnson

The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore experiences that influence the identity development among Third Culture Kids (TCKs). TCKs are individuals that spend part of their developmental years in a country other than their parents’ home country. Emerging themes reveal TCK’s struggles with awareness, fitting in, and belonging.

Logan McDonald  
English and Spanish

Worldwide Waters: Laurasian Flood Myths and Their Connections  
Dr. Joseph Pellegrino

Throughout ancient Middle Eastern culture, there are countless flood stories, many with similar characteristics, such as characters, reasons behind the flood, and results of the flood. These narratives have become well-known tenants of ancient literature and show how literature can connect people of all civilizations.
Rachel Brady
Use of Surveillance in Long-term Patient Care Settings
Dr. Margaret Mossholder

The world’s population is aging, and the issue of elder abuse is increasingly important. Technology in healthcare is also increasing so whether the increased surveillance helps ensure safe care to residents or violates their right to privacy is in question. To explore the dilemma, perceptions of nursing students were collected.

Tierra Myrick
Mental Health Disparities and Southern College Students
Professor Marie Graf

This study investigates disparities in mental healthcare that affect college students. Two major factors were identified as leading to disparities and participants reported issues with coping and utilizing mental health services. These findings can address barriers to care, which may lead to solutions that can eliminate the incidence of disparities.

Samantha Penta
Perceived Effects of Learning Disabilities on College Students
Dr. Marian Tabi

To explore the barriers of learning disabilities on college students, data was collected from 143 students. Participants over the age of 18 with a learning disability were included in the study. One-quarter of participants reported a learning disability, but the majority denied receiving accommodations. Increased awareness of disability accommodations is necessary.

Cassie Williams
Student Nurses Perception of Ability to Provide Care Internationally
Professor Sheri Carey

With diversity expected to increase, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) education regarding international nursing care and cultural competency was explored. Specifically, the purpose of this research was to determine whether current BSN students believe they can provide appropriate and holistic care to international patients and/or patients of different cultural backgrounds.
Stafford Baum  Accounting
Cryptocurrency Fraud: A Look Into the Frontier of Fraud
Dr. Britton McKay

The inspiration for this project stemmed from the theory that the public is naïve to the dangers of trading cryptocurrencies. Every day, people lose millions of dollars to cryptocurrency fraud. This project categorizes cryptocurrency frauds into four categories and provides safe crypto-trading techniques to prevent further loss due to crypto-trading.

Ashton Glenn  Accounting
Equifax: Anatomy of a Security Breach
Dr. Thomas Buckhoff

This thesis analyzes the events behind the 2017 Equifax data breach to determine if Equifax acted negligently in its data protection or breach response. This thesis determines Equifax did not act negligently with its breach response and the final court will determine if Equifax acted negligently with its data protection.
Elizabeth Hawkins  
Mathematics  
Group Theory and Particles  
Dr. Jimmy Dillies  

We begin by a brief overview of the notion of groups and Lie groups. We then explain what group representations are and give their main properties. Finally, we show how group representation form a natural framework to understand the Standard Model of physics.

Chidera Obinali  
Information Technology  
The Perception of Gender in Voice Assistants  
Dr. Jeffrey P. Kaleta & Dr. Elizabeth Rasnick  

Voice assistants have been developed to process and perform tasks that naturally require human comprehension such as the exchanging of information. This research explores how a user’s perception of vocally identifiable gender impacts their level of information acceptance with a voice assistant.