

University Honors Program News

December 1, 2016

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-news>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "University Honors Program News" (2016). *University Honors Program News Blog*. 49.
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/honors-news/49>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Honors Program at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Honors Program News Blog by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

[Main Menu](#)
[Apply to Honors ▾](#)
[About the Program ▾](#)
[Student Resources ▾](#)
[Handbooks/Forms ▾](#)


[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > Honors Research at Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference

Honors Research at Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference

December 1, 2016

Ever since the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference's (GURC) conception five years ago, honors students have taken advantage of this opportunity to showcase their research locally, and this year was no exception. Eleven students in disciplines ranging from chemistry to creative writing took part in this year's conference at Georgia College and State University's campus in Milledgeville.

Writing and linguistics students featured prominently among the conference's Georgia Southern population. Three seniors focusing on creative writing, Maggie Delisle, Summer Kurtz, and Lauren Gagnon, led a panel titled "Intertwining Realities in Fiction: How Research Informs Creative Writing." Writing fiction and poetry is often dismissed as non-academic, but this panel dispelled that notion.

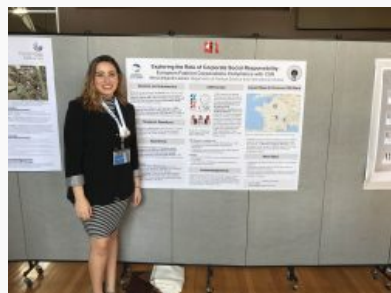
"Our panel talked about how research is actually really important to the creative writer," Gagnon explained. "It helps the writer create an authentic world and make their fiction as close to reality as possible."

Their creative projects have been informed by intensive research, both secondary and primary. Delisle's project, a novella about Coney Island, found her combing through archives at the Brooklyn Public Library, The Coney Island Public Library, and the New York Public Library. Gagnon spent a large portion of her summer interviewing people for her novella, tentatively titled *After the War*, which chronicles a wife's struggle with her husband's PTSD. Speaking with her cousin and his friends, who are all army rangers, helped her shape an accurate portrait of not just an army ranger's life, but the cadence and sound of their speech, as well. She also met with a veteran suffering from 70% PTSD, helping her to better empathize with her characters. Kurtz's poetry collection, *Milestones to Maturity*, deals more with her personal experiences with mental illness, but were still informed by research that included psychology textbooks and analyzing how people talk about mental illness on social media.

At a conference largely attended by STEM majors, the students were grateful to have the opportunity to present a unique perspective on research.

"We were certainly in the minority, but it was good to represent for the liberal arts," Kurtz said. "It was definitely a fulfilling experience."

Another liberal arts student, Maria Amiel (international studies / French '17), presented on her honors thesis, "Exploring the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility: European Fashion Corporations Compliance to Ethical Practice."



"My project bridges the gap between art and law to explore and analyze the role that the fashion industry has in the movement of accepting and implementing corporate social responsibility, particularly in European countries," Amiel said.

Other presenters included a large number of athletic training and exercise students, including Lacey Dennis (athletic training '17), Diana Tyler (exercise science '16), Molly McLaughlin (exercise science '16), and Chelsea Rodriguez (exercise science '18). With encouragement from kinesiology professor Dr. Daniel Czech, these students presented original research.



STEM students also took their research and honors theses to the conference, including Kelvin Rosado-Ayala (computer science '18), Carlie Novak (chemistry '18), Wesley O'Quinn (electrical engineering / physics '19), and David Moore (electrical engineering '17).

O'Quinn, who presented research on energy harvesting with wind turbines, particularly enjoyed the conference: "It was an incredible experience because it provided the opportunity to meet and talk with other undergraduates who are doing research. This was beneficial because I was able to talk about future research project ideas with them."

One of Novak's favorite aspects of the conference was its interdisciplinary nature. She said, "Presenting at GURC gave me the opportunity to share my research with my peers in different departments. This was a great opportunity to expose my research at a convention that was not solely dedicated to chemistry; something I do not get to do often."

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)

University Honors Program • PO Box 8130 Statesboro, GA 30460 • (912) 478-7926



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US

Main Menu[Apply to Honors ▾](#)[About the Program ▾](#)[Student Resources ▾](#)[Handbooks/Forms ▾](#)[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > Honors Research at the American Chemical Society

Honors Research at the American Chemical Society

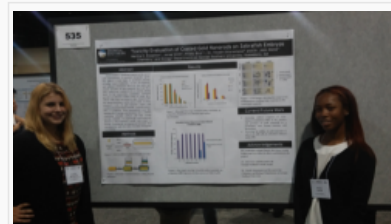
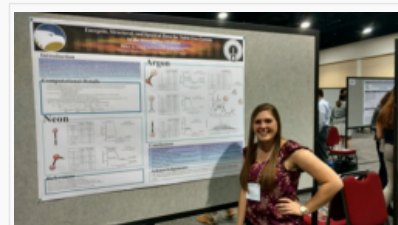
December 1, 2016

Every year, one or two honors students usually attend the American Chemical Society's annual conference, but this year five chemistry students—Mattie Braselton ('18), Olivia Perdue ('17), Jenae Smith ('18), Jonathan Taylor ('16), and Riley Theis ('16)—took their research to the meeting, which was held in Columbia, South Carolina. Both students and professionals alike attended the conference, including 2008 Nobel Peace Prize winner for chemistry, Martin Chalfie.

Each student was able to transform their work from the classroom into well-developed research through the support of their mentors. Jonathan Taylor's mentor is Dr. Ji Wu, a professor of Analytical Chemistry.

Taylor said, "Often times the roles of the student and the professor can feel separated, but spending time with Dr. Wu, and other professors around the department, has helped to remind me that they were all undergraduates at one point too."

Professors are valuable resources because they understand the struggles and difficulties that come with undergraduate research because they had similar experiences. Smith appreciates that fact that professors "have been in [our] shoes before."

*Mattie Braselton and Jenae Smith**Riley Theis*

The students heard about the American Chemical Society through their mentors, who act as a bridge between the academic and professional worlds. Many of the mentors also played a vital role in the development of the poster presentations. "Whenever I had questions, I would ask my mentor, and he gave a lot of tips about presenting my poster," Smith said.

The five honors students were appreciative of the experience because many students do not receive opportunities to present research at the undergraduate level. Smith was genuinely excited for the moment to present because this was her first conference in her undergraduate career. She also attended the graduate school fair at the conference and gained "information from schools with some of the top chemistry departments."

The overall experience provided the students will skills in communication, research, and public speaking.

Perdue loved meeting "other people as passionate about chemistry as [she is]," a sentiment Theis also agreed with.

"I thoroughly enjoyed talking with other students about their research and having the opportunity to network with renowned scientists," she said.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US

Main Menu[Apply to Honors ▾](#)[About the Program ▾](#)[Student Resources ▾](#)[Handbooks/Forms ▾](#)[Home](#) > [Uncategorized](#) > Honors Research at the Georgia Political Science Association

Honors Research at the Georgia Political Science Association

December 1, 2016

The Georgia Political Science Association conference is hosted annually in Savannah, making it the perfect place for Georgia Southern students to showcase their research, and four honors students recently took advantage of this opportunity. Charlotte McDonald, Maria Alejandra Amiel,Carolynn Nixon, Tony Hudson, and Auburn Bell each gave presentations to an audience consisting of both political science educators and students from around the world.

"The conference was incredible," said Maria Alejandra Amiel (international studies & French '17). "It's an experience I believe more undergraduate students should get."

Art and fashion have long interested Amiel, especially in how they relate to law, corporations, and human rights. Her presentation focused on the bridge between art and law, and the role that the fashion industry plays in corporate social responsibility. Mentored by Dr. Flynn, Amiel has analyzed the interaction of corporate social responsibility, international law, human rights, and activist groups.

Charlotte McDonald (international studies & German, '17) presented on a comparative case study she is conducting of European states. Under the mentorship of Dr. Maureen Stobb, she has been pursuing this study for some time. The presentation itself focused on human trafficking, which she reported is "the second largest international crime in the world," as well as potential legal changes within the European Union to address the issue.

"I am very interested in how international law, specifically European Union treaties, can respond to this huge influx in human trafficking," McDonald said.

She praises the conference for having given her the opportunity to network with possible future graduate schools, as well as being "a great opportunity to present my research to a broader audience of academics," which she hopes will go on to aid her in future research and presentation.

"Helping Ourselves First: Conflict Management Strategies of Regional IOs," presented by Carolynn Nixon (political science, '17) discussed the effectiveness of differing international organizations, such as the European Union. Her research focused primarily on numerous international organizations which she has studied, and their reactions and decisions pertaining to specific conflicts.

"It was a great chance to meet people in the field and discuss my research," Nixon said. "Getting to share your research in a professional atmosphere makes it feel so much more real."

Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

[< Previous](#)

[Next >](#)



Honors Program students at the GAPS.



GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

MORE INFORMATION

FOLLOW US

1332 Southern Drive
Statesboro, Georgia 30458
Phone: (912) 478-4636

A Unit of the

Copyright © 2017 · All rights reserved