

# CURIO SYMPOSIUM

Research and Creative Presentations, Performances & Exhibits

College of Arts & Humanities

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## *PRESENTERS SPOTLIGHT*

**April 19**

**Armstrong Solmes Hall, 11AM to 2PM**

**Statesboro IAB, 5:30PM to 9PM**



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## Amy Turenne, Literature Dr. Olivia Carr Edenfield - Department of Literature Seeing the Divine in the Web

### PRESENTER'S BIO:S

I currently live in Statesboro but plan to move out of Georgia after graduation to pursue new horizons somewhere out there. I am a double major in Literature and Writing & Linguistics. My future educational goals include exploring children's literature more in depth to expand upon research that demonstrates how important this genre is to the vitality of human storytelling.

Dr Edenfield included Charlotte's Web in her list of books for her Popular Literature class in Spring of 2022. This was one of my favorite books as a child and I was excited to read and analyze it in a college class setting. After discussing The Hero's Journey for another book in the class, I decided to see if I could find the same patterns in Charlotte's Web and to share my findings. This analysis inspired me to continue looking for the monomyth in other children's literature.



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## Rylee Stanton, Spanish Dr. Grant Gearhart - Department of World Languages and Cultures

*Community Apprenticeship  
Program: Immigrant  
Advocacy*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hello everyone! My name is Rylee and I am from Phoenix, Arizona. I am an International Studies and Spanish double major as well as a member of the Honors College. I am incredibly grateful for the experiences and opportunities that Georgia Southern has provided in my time here. My most exciting and insightful experience was studying abroad in Barranquilla, Colombia. This experience encouraged me to dive more deeply into the Spanish language, food security, and immigrant rights.

After returning from Colombia, my passion for Spanish and my interest in immigrant rights grew immensely. Dr. Gearhart recommended I take his course, "Spanish for the Professions." Within this course, I was given the opportunity to complete a Community Apprenticeship Program (CAP). In collaboration with Dr. Gearhart and our community partners, I was selected to work with Migrant Equity South East (MESE). From there, I was able to apply my linguistic and cultural knowledge to serve and advocate for immigrants in South Georgia. I am incredibly grateful for Dr. Gearhart and my experience with MESE.



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## **Ka'Myra Brundage, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess - Department of History**

*African influence on  
southern cuisine*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

I'm a first generation college student from my hometown of Putnam county Georgia. I aspire to be an history teacher and I want to focus on African American history.

African American traditions and cultures have been taken and reinvented into other cultures for centuries. The study investigates the traditions and cultures of African American cuisine that ultimately influenced the delicious cuisine that the American south is famous for. Studies focus on African enslavement and how African women played a major role in the cooking and the keeping of African traditions while transitioning to enslavement and American culture. Women have traditionally been the home chef and the keeper of traditions. The study also focuses on specific food crops, the parts they plan in the making of the cuisines, and the background of the cuisines.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

I'm a Writing major living in the small town of Eatonton, Georgia. After graduating, I plan to pursue a Masters in Library and Information Science with a focus on youth services. I'm also interested in the study of children's literature (and am currently at work on a young adult novel). In my non-academic time you can find me playing board games with my two sons, piecing together a quilt, and writing short fiction or songs.

## Ashley Beresch, Writing & Linguistics

### Prof. Laura Valeri - Department of Writing & Linguistics

#### *Find The Flow: Demonstrating the Eight Emotional States of Creativity through Gameplay*

Professor Valeri's "Creativity in Writing" course illuminated for me many of the "secret" inner workings of the creative mind. This project perfectly engaged my interests in the creative process and gamification as a pedagogical tool. As a writer, I am always interested in balancing optimization with that mysterious, wondrous "flow." Csíkszentmihályi's research provided an exciting avenue to explore the concrete emotional states of creativity through the more unorthodox and expressive outlet of game development.



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## Hannah Grace Drury, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess - Department of History

*Christmas Dinner Auld Lang Syne:  
Rediscovering the Preparations and  
Components of Christmas Dinner in  
Late Medieval and Early Modern  
England*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

As a Statesboro native, I have always known I would go to Georgia Southern University. Being in the History Department, there is something new and different to study in every single class, whether it is Islamic architecture, the hidden lives of women in Early Modern England, or Christmas dinner centuries ago. When I first thought about writing a research paper on Christmas dinner in the late medieval and early modern period, I felt overwhelmed, but this has been one of my favorite things I have done while studying at GSU.

When I began thinking of a topic for a research paper on food, I soon realized I could write about some of my favorite things, such as late medieval and early modern England and its Christmas traditions. I thought this paper would be easy, but even with the amazing help of the Library Research team, I was wondering if this topic was still a good idea. Dr. Skidmore-Hess has been with me and this paper since the beginning and without her I probably would have quit. She has shown me that writing a paper for a grade is only the beginning of all the possibilities. Working with Dr. Skidmore-Hess has been a fantastic experience. Her feedback is always honest and helpful and working with her has proven that our professors really do want us to succeed as individuals, that we are more than statistics on a piece of paper at the end of the semester.



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## Danielle Ball, Literature Dr. Olivia Carr Edenfield - Department of Literature

*A Comparison of Holden  
Caulfield and Jake Barnes*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

My name is Danni Ball and I am a junior Literature major with a Biology minor. I am originally from Fayetteville, Georgia. I love all kinds of literature, but my favorite is definitely American literature. My presentation involves comparing Jake Barnes and Holden Caulfield, two iconic characters from American novels. After graduating from Georgia Southern, I hope to go on to graduate school and continue her education. A fun fact about me is that I work as a nursing assistant and medication aide at an assisted living facility.

I first met Dr. Edenfield in the Spring 2022 semester when I was a student in her Introduction to Literary Studies class. At that time, I was not yet an English major, and she helped me gain the courage to make the transition to studying English full time. In Fall 2022, I took her Introduction to the Novel Class, and adored every minute of it. We had a very open-ended prompt for our final paper, and she gave me the idea to compare two characters from different novels we had read as a class. After I submitted my paper to her, she suggested that I look into the CURIO symposium and helped me through the submission process.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Robin Laning is a 21-year-old English major and prospective graduate student. Their areas of study include film, pop culture, queer theory, postcolonialism, and feminist studies. They are a Savannah native and spend their spare time crawling local coffee shops, writing short stories, and reviewing games. Their long term goals include teaching film studies on a college level, expanding their horizons, and obtaining a PhD in English with a concentration on film.

## Robin Laning, Literature Dr. Beth Howells, Department of Literature

### *Sex, Nationality, and Wealth: Examining Park Chan- Wook's The Handmaiden Through an Intersectional Lens*

I spoke with Dr. Howells regarding this project early on in English 3110. Following consultation with Dr. Konkle, I asked Dr. Howells for further guidance and information regarding preparation for graduate school. She encouraged me to use this project for my writing sample, assisted me in time management, and helped me to build the proper theoretical framework to make this paper strong. She announced that Curio was accepting proposals and suggested that those in our class submit to it. After further consultation and a draft review, I finalized this project. Her professionalism, kindness towards students, and her detailed guidance, as I have described, encouraged me to work with her.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

I am a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Music Technology minor from Savannah, Georgia. My primary instrument is guitar but I also play bass guitar for the Georgia Southern Jazz Ensemble. The B.A. allows a student to be open for multiple paths of study within music, which has allowed me to delve more into music technology. It's hard to predict the future, due to new technologies developing like never before, but I hope to continue pursue music composition and performance. I like the idea of being a "music producer", which in modern terms, is more so an umbrella term for an all-in-one musician, recording and mixing engineer, and traditional producer.

## Joshua Upchurch, Music Prof. John Thompson - Fred and Dinah Gretsch School of Music

### *Into the Rarefied Air*

After playing guitar for most of my life, and before joining the Gretsch School of Music, I found myself at a point where I was not progressing as a musician and was in a state of limbo. Now, I have rekindled my passion for music through the school, discovering new and old music. One of these mediums to which I have discovered new music is Channel Noise and the electronic music ensemble under the direction of Dr. John Thompson. Also a guitar player, he had a composition that he had previously performed for various conferences, but had never notated it nor had anyone else perform it. I was eager to perform anything for Channel Noise, and this piece was suggested by Dr. Thompson. After a few sessions learning and studying the notes and technologies that comes with the piece, I found that it is reminiscent of moments as a musician where I would be up in the dead-morning hours picking up my guitar to play whatever came to mind, albeit now in an eerie and electronic atmosphere. Into the Rarefied Air is the embodiment of a guitarist in a free-space exploring timbres of an instrument to which they have devoted their life to.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hello, I am Mady Bullard. I am from Nahunta, Georgia. I am a history major and am working toward a minor in anthropology. I am interested in colonial history with an emphasis on paleopathology. I also have an interest in women's history which has led me to this project on female printers from the 15th century to 1776. After graduation, I plan to apply to graduate school to pursue either a degree in Public History or Museum Studies. After receiving my graduate degree, I hope to pursue a career in Public History. I would like to work at a museum.

## Mady Bullard, History Dr. Kathleen M. Comeford - Department of History

### *Women in Intellectualism: Female Jesuit Printers in Lyon and Venice from 1400- 1776*

I have always had a deep passion for women's history because of the lack of records that most middle-class and lower-class women have left behind. Because most women did not leave records, they became invisible to history. I first became aware of the project when Dr. Comerford asked me to apply for the research assistant position that was being offered for the fall semester. She and I have discussed the importance a project like this can have on history as it shows that even everyday persons have impacts on history even in their small way.

Women have been pushed to the background in many events in history while in Early Modern European printing women were the laborers.



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## Bradley Stoker, History Dr. Robert Batchelor - Department of History

*The Making of Skidaway -  
The Environmental History  
on the Development*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hello I am Bradley Stoker and I am from Chickamauga, Georgia. I am a History major with a focus in Antiquity or the study of the ancient Mediterranean world. My research however is in Environmental history, a topic that has begun to pique my interest more and more as I near my graduation. My research is on Skidaway Island, a very unique place among the barrier islands when it comes to its history. Golf clubs, research centers, and state parks can be found on the island but how did it get that way?

The history of development does not sound very interesting at face value but once you get into it you will find out how whole communities came to be. Dr. Batchelor encouraged me to delve deeper into how an island so close to Savannah came to be so unique among the Golden Isles. I have worked with him before on a past project but that one focused more on the speculative rather than the reality. Apart of me was drawn to map out exactly a whole community suddenly appeared around the 1970s from an island mostly private or industrial.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Katrina grew up in Toledo, OH, and is pursuing a degree in Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Leisure Services at Georgia Southern University. Her work aims to connect people to the outdoors via education, art, and adventure experiences.

## **Katrina Rumsey, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism, and Leisure Dr. Robert Batchelor – Department of History**

### *The Wormsloe Historic Site Landscape Map*

The Wormsloe Historic Site Landscape Map investigates the changes in environmental history of Wormsloe Historic Site while focusing on the history of the land usage in the area and the effects of changes upon the site. The archives used in this project include *Remaking Wormsloe Plantation: The Environmental History of a Lowcountry Landscape*, by Drew Swanson, research and interviews from the Wormsloe Institute of Environmental History, and maps from the University of Georgia and the Library at Wormsloe. This comprehensive map furthers awareness of the research done at Wormsloe Historic Site and provides education to visitors by combining maps of all ages to create a visual representation of the past, present and future of Wormsloe Historic Site.





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## **Alena Flynn, Psychology** **Jasmine Wallace - Department of** **Philosophy and Religious Studies**

*Foucault and Dean Spade on  
Repression and Trans-  
Politics: Praxis Makes  
Perfect*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

I am a psychology major in my senior year at Georgia Southern, planning on continuing towards a master's degree after graduation. Though psychology is my main educational focus, I enjoy branching out into queer theory and feminist philosophy.

The subject of sexuality and LGBTQIA+ rights has always been one of great importance to me, and following recent anti-transgender legislation being pushed forth throughout the country, this seems to be an even more pressing matter. Since first being introduced to Dr. Wallace through my introductory philosophy course, we have had numerous discussions regarding the marginalization of various groups in our society. She has taught me a great deal, and helped me to further develop my own philosophical voice and understanding. With this particular topic, Dr. Wallace's class discussions regarding what Dean Spade calls the 'administration of gender' really sparked my interest, and pushed me to analyze this concept through the Foucaultian lens of biopolitics.



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## Chase Weitman & James Knight(Dalton), Education Dr. Robert Batchelor - Department of History

### *Longleaf Pine Curriculum*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

My name is Chase Weitman and I am from Springfield, GA. I am a Secondary Education major with an emphasis in history. I am a certified Forestry Judging Coach through Effingham County UGA Extension, which is why we chose this topic.

The Longleaf pine is a native and crucial species to southeast Georgia. Since the late 19th century, the population of Longleaf has been rapidly decreasing due to agricultural and economic reasons. The project has conservation and historical significance. The conservation goals are met through awareness for longleaf pine in the ways of prescribed burns and ecological importance. The historical goals are met through discussion and information about the longleaf pine history and why it has dramatically decreased over the past 200 years. A curriculum is developed in order to raise awareness and meet both historical and conservation goals.



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## Marie Curry and Kathleen Cappello, Education Dr. Robert Batchelor - Department of History

### *Public Awareness of Pollution in the Savannah River*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Kathleen Cappello and I, Marie Curry, are partners for our Environmental History course's final project. Originally, we were working individually until Katie invited me to join her topic after I decided I needed to switch topics. We are both juniors. Kathleen majors in Mechanical Engineering while I am a Secondary Education in History major. Neither of us are from this area, so doing a project on the Savannah river was very exciting! Taking a little trip to the riverfront for photos was really enjoyable, as I had only been once before that.

Our project focuses on one of, if not the, most iconic places in the area – the Savannah river. Our project needed to be on something in the southeast plains, so it seemed natural to research what people do not know about the most well known river in the area. Dr. Batchelor helped us develop our ideas through many stages until we settled on public awareness of the river's pollution. He really encouraged us to complete our own research through interviews and digging of archival information. Every class, he pushed us to improve our work throughout the entire process.



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## Tania Carrington, Graphic Design Prof. Kasie Alt - Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

### *Lyric and Letter*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Tania Carrington is a Graphic Design Major from Miami, FL and raised all over Miami-Dade thanks to Hurricane Andrew in '91. With this project she hopes to bring more people to open themselves to new conversations or experiences, with music as the catalyst. In the near future she hopes to start her own design firm that focuses on small businesses looking for sharp branding at a decent price.

I have always found inspiration in music. Sometimes it's the song's rhythm that catches my attention, other times it's the lyrics, and in the end it's both the rhythm, the lyrics-- the whole song, that has transported me to another world, another realm and I'm drawing or filming or taking pictures with that song on my mind. Dr. Kasie Alt had piqued my interest because of the way she explained the CURIO symposium. If I had gone on the website and read the information without the knowledge she first handed to me, I would have moved on and not really thought much about it. I am thankful to her for giving me some time in talking about the symposium and the idea I presented her.





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## MaKenna Hillmer, Fine Arts Prof. Melissa Huang - Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

### *Treated like Meat*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

MaKenna Hillmer (b.2002) is a full-time undergraduate student at Georgia Southern University. Where she is in the process of obtaining her BFA in Fine Arts Studio. She graduated from Brookwood High school in 2020 and is on track to graduate in 2024 from Georgia Southern. Her portraits of women display the daily challenges and encounters women face and the emotions attached to them. MaKenna has had pieces displayed in multiple group exhibits in the Atlanta and Snellville area. MaKenna has done numerous commission pieces for professional athletes over the years including Brandon Boston on the Clippers and the professional soccer player Zamier Harris.

This past semester I was really inspired by Melissa Huang to complete this piece along with other pieces related to my topic. I was in Melissa's Intermediate painting class and we had the task to come up with a topic we want to revolve all our pieces around and relate to throughout the year. For each piece she continued to help push my pieces further and really helped me with expanding my ideas. I was pushed to try new mediums and go much bigger than what I was used to.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Tyler Mitchell is a senior History Major, Political Science Minor with a Pre-Law track at Georgia Southern University. He plans on attending law school in the fall of 2023 and hopes to either become a criminal prosecutor or medical lawyer.

## Tyler Mitchell, History Dr. Robert Batchelor- Department of History

### *Data in Dissonance : An Examination & Comparison of Data On Savannah's Biodiversity*

Tyler always had an interest in animal life, particularly marine life. When he saw that Dr. Batchelor was offering a course on environmental history, he saw this as an opportunity to satisfy that interest. Furthermore, as Dr. Batchelor was a professor that Tyler had previously had for Historical Methods and Modern European Thought, and due to professor being over the Digital Humanities department, he knew that Dr. Batchelor assistance in any project for that class would have no equal. Throughout the semester, Dr. Batchelor gave a variety of projects focused on understanding the methodology of research, and understanding how to present research. For our final project, he encouraged us to explore different online mediums to present our research and provided us with constructive criticism. During the final stage, he provided us with encouragement noting that in such a short amount of time were able to create professional level projects.



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## Allisan Anderson, Literature Dr. Beth Howells - Department of Literature

### *From Titans to Humankind: A Psychoanalytical Approach to Eren Yeager*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hello! I was born and raised in Statesboro, GA with one older brother who currently lives in Atlanta. I am double majoring in Literature, Writing and Linguistics because I couldn't decide on which one, I wanted to major in. An interesting fact about me would be that I have been writing small fiction stories since I was in elementary school, going as far as printing out the story for a keepsake (I still have it!). My plans after I graduate would be to hopefully move to Atlanta for more opportunities and experience as an aspiring author and English college professor.

I've always loved anime (Japanese animated tv shows) for a couple years now because of how entertaining it is and how it keeps me on my toes. It's not as common to find a complex tv show like Attack on Titan that makes me think of past events to connect the dots on current ones. It is such a good show with many perspectives that I just had to write about it through a psychoanalytic lens. It did, however, take me a lot of digging and researching to get my point across, but my mentor helped me through the writing process, and I am forever grateful for her.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hi, I am Holly Garrett, and I am from Chickamauga, Georgia. I am currently working toward undergraduate degrees in English and Philosophy with a concentration in law. Upon the completion of my degrees in Spring 2023, I plan to continue my educational journey by going to law school to pursue my dream of becoming an attorney.

## Holly Garrett, Literature, Philosophy Dr. Paul Tubig - Department of Literature

### *The Supreme Court on Trial*

As an aspiring attorney, I find great interest in the functions of the American legal system and how it works to serve its citizens. In my Philosophy of Law course I took in the fall of 2022, I had the privilege to discuss and learn more about the inner workings of the legal system from Dr. Paul Tubig. Throughout our time working together, Dr. Tubig has challenged me to create a piece that reflects my philosophical opinions about not only the state of the Supreme Court, but also other legal topics that spark my passions.





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## Shelby Koch, Literature Dr. Beth Howells - Department of Literature

*Evolution of an Antiheroine:  
Feminism in Dubuque's  
"Ozark"*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

I am in my senior year as an English major, Spanish minor at Georgia Southern University. I am a wife and mother of two girls, Avri and Ally. I really enjoy conducting textual analyses of popular culture texts with my most recent being a feminist analysis of the Netflix series "Ozark" by Dubuque. However, my true passion is education. I am set to open Statesboro's first Montessori preschool August 2023. I have spent years studying Montessori and its benefits for early childhood education, and I look forward to serving families of our community.

I enjoy the challenge of explicating various texts through critical lenses and doing the research to learn more about the text and creator – especially media. I find it really interesting to see pop culture's influence throughout various genres and studying the evolution of those genres' conformity to societal influence. For this project in particular, I chose to study feminism presented through antiheroines within television crime dramas and how "Ozark" challenged this sphere of a male dominated genre by providing multiple, unique antiheroines within the series. Dr. Beth Howells has been the best mentor and supporter throughout my process. She helped make the process much less overwhelming, and she has given me a newfound confidence in my work.



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## Harrison Giles, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess Department of History *Rationing and the World Wars*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

My name is Harrison Giles, from Grovetown, GA, studying History and minoring in Anthropology, I enjoy real time strategy games, I plan to find somewhere in a nice Museum to work

My mentor gave this as a challenge and assignment during her Historical Methods class. I am only interested to see how well my research paper does, but I have no real goal to continue doing symposiums after this one.



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## TaChauncia Griggs, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess - Department of History

### *Student*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

My name is TaChauncia Griggs, and I am a senior who will be graduating in Spring 2023. I am getting a B.A. in History, and this will be my second degree. An interesting fact about myself is that I am currently getting my second Bachelor's degree. I received my first degree from the Armstrong campus in Secondary Education with a focus in History. Once I graduate I plan on getting a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction and with that degree I want to work for a school district either in Atlanta or outside of Atlanta.

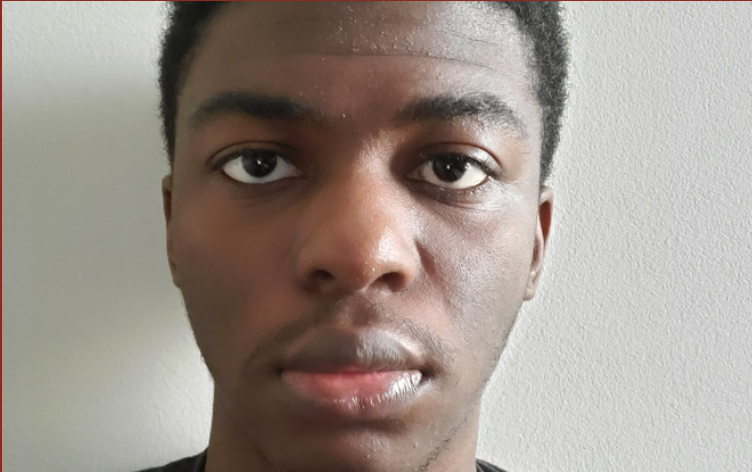
My presentation will discuss the effects that fast food has on America, how social class is tied into it and which class is affected the most. Interest in my project came from my love of food. I love all aspects of food, like where it originated from or what was the inspiration behind certain foods or meals. I also am very interested in poverty, how it's affected, and ways that it can be improved. Poverty is a topic that is often discussed throughout this country. More people are affected by poverty than one would think. My faculty mentor allowed me to choose the topic I wanted to do the project on. I decided to combine those two interests and create the topic for my project, which is about fast food and how the social hierarchy plays into its consumption.



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## Zaccheus Mckibbens, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess - Department of History

*Theft of artifacts and art  
during World War 2 by the  
Nazi Party*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hello I am Zaccheus Mckibbens, I am from McDonough, GA. I am a sophomore at Georgia Southern University with my major being in History and a minor in Philosophy. I have had an interest war history and conflicts fought over religious reasons. I am fascinated by the lifestyles during these periods and how they would change due to conflicts. After graduation I would like to work in archives to gain a better and deeper knowledge of the things that interest me.

My professor encouraged us to participate in this and I believe that it is very helpful as a history major to engage in these types of things. Through this project I hope to meet like minded people and be able to expand my skills and acquire new ones as well which will all become very helpful in my future as a historian.





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## Enzo Montero, History Dr. Cathy Skidmore-Hess - Department of History

### *Starve Before Dishonor*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

I'm from Effingham, Georgia and I'm a Sophomore at Georgia Southern studying History. I plan to go for my master's and hope to become a museum, curator. My Family is from Curacao a Dutch colony island in the Caribbean. My research for this project is quite interesting because it looks at an aspect of Japan during WW2 that is often overlooked, and hopefully shines little light on the struggles of Japan's people's struggle for food both civilian and Armed Forces, and let it be heard. And also the colonies that were under Imperial Japan's rule and their Struggles too.

Professor Skidmore Hess helped me with how to properly do academic research and got me into this topic because of her Historical Method Class. In the class, it helped me get interested in the food aspect of history and how people filled their everyday nourishment needs in times of struggle or even worse starved themselves.



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## Hannah Graham, Literature Julia Griffin - Department of Literature

*Why Fangirls Would Love Satan:  
Or, Milton's Satan as a  
Predecessor to the Modern  
Antihero*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hannah Graham is a Literature major with a minor in Writing. She is a bookworm from Hazlehurst, GA, and has a love of alternative storytelling in the form of video games, comics, manga, and more, which she hopes will one day garner more attention in the academic realm for study and analysis.

Dr. Julia Griffin is an excellent professor who is willing to tackle teaching thorny works that students may otherwise feel daunted by. On a whim, I (a daunted student) decided to take her class on Milton to study *Paradise Lost* (of which I had heard murmurings and stirrings about some sexy Satan or other); thus, I found myself face-first in a work that twists and turns the narrative of the fall of man to make room for Satan's own tragic, yet noble fall. As Dr. Griffin guided the class through the poem, I began to see the threads of Milton's tapestry interwoven with nearly every form of media I consumed. Milton's devil, it seemed, was after me, and as I began to follow the threads of the Miltonic antihero to their ends, I picked three favorite incarnations of it to analyze more closely for my final research project: a motley crew including Frankenstein's monster, Batman, and the infamous Eren Jaeger. Dr. Griffin, after brainstorming the project with me and reading the paper I submitted, encouraged me to expand further and prepare a presentation on the project.



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## Jahlil Daniels, Writing & Linguistics Prof. Drevlow | Dr. Li - Department of Writing & Linguistics

*Ne(grow)logism*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Jahlil Daniels is Writing and Linguistics major with minor in English. He is from the heart of Georgia where people meet to attend the Georgia National Fair. Jahlil will be graduating Spring semester of this year. His creative work will focus on sociolinguistics and neologism.

I consider both Professor Drevlow and Dr. Li to be wonderful mentors as they are aiding me through the progression of this project. Professor Drevlow's love for all things creative and persistence in writing serves as inspiration for me. His actions remind me of the importance of mindfulness and authenticity when it comes to the arts. I sensed Dr. Li's dedication and delight in linguistics in one of our meetings. I just recently asked her to assist on this project as her course provided me with much insight into language and language theory. She has offered much insight and knowledge for this project.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Lindsey Morris is a senior Public Relations major from Douglas, Georgia. Following her graduation in the spring, she hopes to further her education by attending law school. Since she was young, she has always been interested in true crime stories, especially those surrounding some of America's most well-known serial killers. This initial interest led her to want to know more about the media's portrayal of them and their crimes.

## Lindsey Rose Morris, Public Relations

### Prof. Holly Cowart - Department of Communications

#### *Netflix's Framing of American Serial Killers: A Content Analysis*

Since I was young, I have always been interested in true crime and fictional crime television shows. As a student studying theories of mass media, I was able to combine my two interests into this research project. I have taken several classes with Dr. Holly Cowart in my time here at Georgia Southern and she has helped me to develop my skills as an undergraduate researcher. With her help, I was able to bring my research plan to life and find out some interesting things about Netflix's framing of American serial killers.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

James Lawson Landers is a History major from Athens, GA graduating in the summer of 2024. James plans to pursue a Master's in History after finishing his undergraduate degree. A fact about James and his research process for the project is that he claims it helped show him how valuable historical debate is regarding contemporary social issues.

## James Lander, History Dr. Jason Tatlock - Department of History

### *The Mesha Stele: Religions Role in Iron Age Levantine Politics*

This project was my first experience researching and writing a historical paper. At first, I was concerned about how well I would do, but Doctor Tatlock's experience and guidance enabled me to explore my potential and produce work that I am proud of. As a novice studying the Iron Age, my greatest challenge was becoming familiar with historical events during this period. In my learning process, Doctor Tatlock was extremely influential. In particular, he taught me how to read a wide range of information and absorb it in a short amount of time, which is one of the most important components of research.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Kimmy Smith is a Public Relations major with a double minor in Communication Studies and Multimedia Journalism from Statesboro, GA graduating as an honor graduate in May 2023. After graduation, she will obtain her Master of Business Administration from Georgia Southern University in order to pursue her goals of working in the corporate communication sector.

## Kimmy Smith, Public Relations Dr. Jeffrey Riley - Department of Communications

### *Does This Picture Make Me Look Fat? Examining The Body Positivity Movement on Instagram.*

For a Public Relations Practitioner, social media is a useful tool for creating mutually beneficial relationships with individuals in online communities. This is commonly seen on Instagram as users all over the world connect and establish relationships based on interests, geographic location, and much more with the help of the features on the app like hashtags and comments. Given Dr. Riley's research experience and familiarity with the body positivity movement and how it was reflected on Instagram, we were able to work together to formulate and answer the research questions being presented and establish the domination of one demographic in the Body Positivity Movement on Instagram.



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## **Brenna Salverson, Writing & Linguistics, Philosophy & Religious Studies** **Prof. Benjamin Drevlow - Writing & Linguistics** *(un)said*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Brenna Salverson is from Peoria, Illinois. She is a double major in Writing & Linguistics and Philosophy & Religions Studies and a minor in Graphic Design. After graduation, she will attend Princeton Theological Seminary to pursue an M.Div. For Brenna, creative writing is an exercise of wonder-finding. The ordinary has the capacity to be extraordinary if we look at it from the right angles.

As I have gone through college, I have struggled with being the quiet girl. In most of my classes, I would remain silent and not talk to my classmates. My silence has slowly shifted to speaking as I have become part of various communities. During initial interactions, many people would misjudge my silence and assume that I was intimidating, scary, and judgemental. Quiet is not as simple as that. Breaking that silent layer is difficult, but there is much to find beneath it. Over three semesters, I have explored this silence under the mentoring of Professor Drevlow. I wanted Professor Drevlow to mentor my project because he is the facilitator for Burning Swamp creative writing open mic. Burning Swamp has been a crucial community in my growth as a writer and person. As I have developed my chapbook, Prof. Drevlow has encouraged me and given me much-needed perspective.





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## Ori Respler, Information Technology Dr. William Eaton – Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

*On When Time Exists: The Three  
Way Tie between Three-  
Dimensionalism, Four-  
Dimensionalism, and the  
Growing Block Theory*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Ori Respler is an Information Technology Major from Alpharetta, GA. He plans to be a software engineer/developer in the near future. During his sophomore year, Intro to Philosophy peaked his interest and eventually led him to Metaphysics with Professor Eaton. After taking a specific liking to Logic and Time philosophies, he eventually started a collaboration paper with his classmate and friend, Safwan Khan.

Once I took Metaphysics, a difficult upper-level in a different department than I was, I started taking a heavy interest in metaphysical logic and time philosophies. The professor teaching the class, Dr. William Eaton, specialized in topics as such and naturally led to an offer of taking a research paper for a class and turning it into something more. My professor saw that my ideas and a classmates were similar and allowed us to collaborate on the class's research paper in exchange for creating an extra long paper for it to truly be a work of art. As research went on, and many talks about the necessity of existence and what implies what later, an outline was finally formed between Safwan and Ori. Months later, the 15 page final product was submitted.

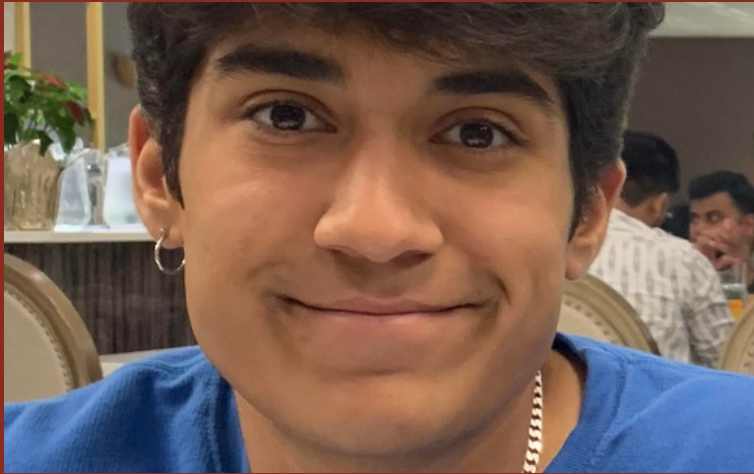




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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Safwan Khan is an undergraduate junior in information technology from Stockbridge, Georgia graduating in 2024. They are the president of the Theta Xi fraternity at Georgia Southern University. They plan on pursuing a career in the IT field, specifically in cybersecurity. This upcoming summer, Safwan will be working in August, GA as an IT intern at Textron Specialized Vehicles.

## Safwan Khan, Information Technology Dr. William Eaton - Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

*On When Time Exists: The Three  
Way Tie between Three-  
Dimensionalism, Four-  
Dimensionalism, and the Growing  
Block Theory*

I decided to take introduction to philosophy with Professor William Eaton after my roommate took the same class and recommended taking it as an elective. I thoroughly enjoyed the way Professor Eaton taught the class, and when he mentioned he was going to be teaching Metaphysics the following semester, I decided to register for it as it is only taught every once in a while. Ori Respler and I wrote this research paper as an assignment for Metaphysics, and we believe that it is worth presenting at this conference after discussing it with Professor Eaton in his office hours this semester. Even though I am most likely not going to take any more philosophy classes, philosophy changed the course of my life forever, and I will always appreciate how it shaped my thinking process for the better.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Jahnyiah Davis, a history major from Perry, Georgia, will graduate in the spring of 2023. She wants to pursue a master's degree in secondary education or history with a medical specialization. Jahnyiah's research interests include the history of medicine in the 19th and 20th centuries, medical negligence in African American communities, and the history of mental hospitals.

## Jahnyiah Davis, History Dr. Julie de Chantal - Department of History

### *Women of The Movement: Uncovering the Transformation of Black Medical Professionals in the 20th Century*

Since the summer of 2022, as a McNair scholar, I've had the privilege of working with Dr. Julie de Chantal, a historian of African American history. When I decided to focus in history and began my first research project, I wanted to collaborate with Dr. De Chantal. I first took her "History of Racism in the U.S." course during my first year at Georgia Southern University. I have advanced as a scholar due to her talents and knowledge that she has acquired over the years of working in her field, and I aspire to embody those same skills as I advance in my study.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Katy Thompson is a History major from Savannah, GA graduating in the fall semester. She plans to attend graduate school and enter the teaching field. Katy has been a lifelong learner---in kindergarten, she was building the Titanic out of wooden blocks, complete with too few lifeboats. She has a particular interest in social and cultural history, and learning about previously overlooked stories, people, and communities.

## Katy Thompson, History Dr. Allison Belzer - Department of History

### *Creating Queer Community in Wartime and Weimar Germany*

Dr. Belzer was the reason I changed my major to History. I have always loved history, but it wasn't until I took my first class with her that I realized how engaging and impactful a history class could be. Since then I've taken one of her classes every semester. As a passionate and excited history student, having a passionate and excited history professor is a dream come true. The Reacting to the Past games she uses were not only incredibly exciting for any history student but also made me reconsider how history could be taught and reignited my interest in teaching history myself. I would not be where I am in my life had I not taken World Civ 2 with Dr. Belzer.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Riley Merritt is an Honors student at Georgia Southern University, Armstrong Campus, majoring in History with a minor in Writing. He has a particular interest in Public History and is set to graduate in Spring 2024. When not studying, Riley enjoys pursuing hobbies such as rock climbing and ceramics. After graduation, Riley plans to pursue a master's degree in History.

## Riley Merritt, History Dr. Alena Pirok - Department of History

### *Reevaluating Opposition to Mt. Rushmore: The Historical Role of Preservationists*

Riley Merritt is driven to reconsider well-established and cherished narratives in history. Under the guidance of his faculty mentor, Dr. Alena Pirok, he began working on a project focused on Mt. Rushmore during her Public History course. He was immediately drawn to the subject due to the relevance of the topic and his interest in reevaluating the history to find more nuanced perspectives. Dr. Pirok has been a tremendous support system for Riley, encouraging him to think critically about the history of the monument and providing guidance and feedback as he conducts his research. Their collaboration has allowed Riley to dive deep into the research process and develop a more nuanced understanding of the significance of Mt. Rushmore and its opposition.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Anna Bucklar, a senior graduating this May hopes to peruse work as a content producer or digital marketing specialist. She has been studying Multimedia and Film Production while working as media intern for NPR News and Broadcasting Producer for GATA productions.

## Anna Bucklar, Multimedia and Film Production Dr. Lauren Bayliss - Department of Communication Arts

### *The Impacts of social media advertisements overtime*

After taking a deep dive into social media and the overall effects it has on a persons lifestyle and decisions I was eager to see how it impacted sales for companies. More specifically taking a look at social media ads during the pandemic and how the media became more relevant to society. While studying theories we had learned the different theories that are used to increase sales and drive in more audience



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## Aveline Davis, Philosophy Dr. Amanda Konkle - Department of Literature

*Apocalypse Now, Nihilism,  
and Abstraction of War*

### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Aveline Davis is a philosophy major and film minor from Knoxville, Tennessee who graduated in the Fall 2022 semester. Aveline's interests are in psychoanalytic feminism and concerns of moral philosophy. She is moving to Philadelphia and will be applying to philosophy graduate programs in the fall. She intends to pursue a career as a philosophy professor.

Aveline Davis has taken several film classes with Dr. Konkle and created this project during her most recent History of Cinema class. Aveline was inspired to branch off from the final project, which was to position a film in a historical context. This project examines the film *Apocalypse Now* in both its historical film context and relationship to other war films. Dr. Konkle encouraged Aveline to broaden her project into this CURIO presentation and to use her background in philosophy to address the nihilistic elements and morality of the film in relation to a wider cultural context.



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## **Tanya Brown, Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Dr. Lauren Bayliss - Department of Communication Arts**

### *Mass Shooting Desensitization*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Tanya Brown is a Women's Gender and Sexuality major with a minor in Gerontology from Savannah, Georgia graduating in the Spring semester. She is a retired service member and is currently a practicing Registered Nurse. Tanya will continue to pursue a deeper understanding of the human condition by applying the knowledge gained from both degree programs.

In the United States, the frequency in which the incidence of mass shootings occur has steadily increased. As a result, this has triggered an equally intense coverage of this phenomenon by legacy media platforms. Legacy media journalists are guided by professional values while at the same time balancing their personal judgments with those of the larger institution's organizational expectations to produce content that ultimately wields a certain influence on their audience and their perception of the world. Thematic analysis of the newspaper medium will explore the theories of agenda-setting and framing to uncover journalists' determination of what is considered "newsworthy" content and their formulaic reporting of mass shootings.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Daysha McCallum is a Public Relations major, minoring in Fashion Merchandising from Dallas, GA graduating in fall 2024. She would like to become a PR Social Media Manager after college.

## Daysha McCallum, Public Relations Dr. Lauren Bayliss - Department of Communication Arts

### *Analyzing Racial Diversity in the Fashion Industry*

After my mentor told me to choose a topic that I wouldn't mind spending months researching I knew I wanted to explore something within the fashion industry since it is so interesting to me!





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Destinee Walker is a Literature major and Comparative Literature minor from Adel, GA and is graduating in Fall 2023. She plans to pursue a Master's in English after graduation. After finishing school, she hopes to teach English at the college level.

## Destinee Blair Walker, Literature Dr. Julia Griffin - Department of Literature

### *Metaphysical Poetry and Donne's "The Sun Rising" and "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"*

After taking Literature of the English Renaissance in Spring 2022, I discovered my passion for older literature, specifically from the Renaissance period. Prior to the class, I was not fond of it, but as the class progressed, it came to be my favorite literary time period. I would actually now consider John Donne to be one of my favorite poets, and "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" is one of my favorite poems. I have to thank Dr. Julia Griffin for helping me find this passion, as her class really opened my eyes to how amazing literature from that time period can be.



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## Nina Samuels , Fine Arts Prof. Matthew Mogles - Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

### An Exploration of Georgia's Wild Clays

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Nina Samuels is a fine arts major in Savannah Georgia. She is primarily a ceramic sculptor focusing on natural materials found within the state of Georgia. For her honors thesis, she is researching wild Georgia clay bodies to use in a contemporary art practice. She is set to graduate in Spring 2024 and plans on attending artists residencies before pursuing a Masters in Fine Arts.

I have always been interested in the history, technology, and science in creating art with the natural material surrounding us. Something as mundane as the dirt beneath our feet can not only be used, but be celebrated in the context of art and deserves to be explored. The farther I've gone with my research, the more I've found enjoyment in sharing it with others. As a dedicated professor of the arts, my advisor has provided me with continuous support and inspiration over the course of several years. With the assistance of him as my honors advisor, I have been encouraged to appreciate, research, and share the materiality of art.



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## Amy Phelps, Writing, Public Administration, Public Policy Prof. Laura Valeri - Department of Writing & Linguistics

### *Taking The Long Way Home - A Writer's Journey*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Amy is a non-traditional student at Georgia Southern University, working towards a 23-year Bachelor's degree. In addition to creative writing, Amy's areas of concentration are public administration and public policy. Amy lives in Midway with her husband and son and their little dog, Diogi.

When I decided to come back to school and finish my degree, my only goal was to "do good" in the world, but I didn't have a great understanding of what that could look like. I enrolled the Interdisciplinary Studies program and began taking public administration and policy classes because that was my area of professional interest. I decided to make "writing" my third concentration because writing has always been a joyful hobby for me, but it is also a skill that I thought would be useful to hone for my career. I thought the classes would be a necessary balance to the weight of policy studies, but they have been so much more than that. Professor Valeri's classes reignited my passion for creativity. Through working with her, I have connected with the art of storytelling and gained an understanding of how the professional writing industry works. Her help has been invaluable to me.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Jesse Barlow is a Multimedia Film & Production Major attending Georgia Southern University. He is in his senior year and will graduate this May. After graduation he plans on moving to Atlanta where he will work as an editor.

## Jesse Barlow, Multimedia Film & Production

### Dr. Lauren Bayliss- Department of Communication Arts

#### *Framing Theory*

This interest was started when taking a theories class with Dr. Bayliss. I was always curious about how companies were able to create such strong brand identities and allow for such strong brand loyalty to follow them. I had witnesses many fierce debates on which truck brand was better between Ford and Chevy and was always curious what created such fierce passion and devotion to a company when no real incentives are given to do so.





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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Natasha is a Multimedia Journalism major from Dublin, Georgia. She is set to graduate in the Spring of 2024 and intends to pursue a career in communication research or local print journalism. She loves to be outside with her two dogs, Lilo and Stitch when she isn't inside studying or reading.

## Natasha Young, Journalism Jeffrey Riley - Department of Communication Arts

### *Crisis in Coverage: Portrayal in News Media of Environmental Crises in Flint, Michigan and Jackson, Mississippi*

When I began working on this project, I had intended to research something "fun," which I soon realized was not what I wanted to do. Throughout my time in college, I have continuously been interested in researching the way that media affects social standards, partly to be aware of what to avoid in the future. Dr. Jeffrey Riley was very encouraging when considering my topic and continuously supportive of my research through the process. When I told him I was unsure of my original topic, he encouraged me to think why I have focused on this genre of research and consider if it was something I truly enjoyed looking into.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Carolyn Gentry is a Multimedia Film and Production major, Multimedia Journalism minor, from Cartersville, GA graduating in the Spring semester. She will pursue an internship with the Georgia Film Academy during the summer following graduation. She plans to further pursue film, television and commercial work in the Atlanta area.

## Carolyn Gentry, Multimedia Film Production

### Dr. Jeffrey Riley - Department of Communication Arts

#### *An Overdose of Horsin' Around: A Content Analysis of Bojack Horseman*

For the class Theories of Mass Communication, the final project was to write a content analysis. My professor for the class, Dr. Riley, highly encouraged students to pick a topic on something that interests them, considering we would be working on this paper for the entirety of the semester. Having just watched Bojack Horseman the previous summer and read articles and opinions on the message and meaning behind the show, I thought it would be a worthwhile and interesting media artifact to analyze. Throughout the duration of the class, Dr. Riley helped guide me in the direction to continuously improve my work. While analyzing the mental health of a fictional talking horse was not what I was expecting to do during my senior year of college, Dr. Riley's continual push towards improvement and overall enthusiasm made me understand and fully believe that it was time well spent.



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## Jordan Moore, History Dr. Allison Belzer - Department of History

### *Uniforms of Neutral Nations During the Great War*

#### PRESENTER'S BIO:

Jordan Moore is from the small town of Nashville, Georgia. He is a History major who loves to focus on understudied aspects of conflicts ranging from the Napoleonic period to Modern day. He is also interested in material culture of neutral nations, and has amassed a small personal collection of artifacts. He will graduate in the Spring, and hopes to pursue a Masters degree in History.

Dr. Allison Belzer shares similar interests in understudied aspects of conflict. Her book on Italian women's uniforms during World War One has inspired Jordan to take up his own interests in similar topics.



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## PRESENTER'S BIO:

Hailey Coles Bowen is an Honors student double majoring in English and WGSS at Georgia Southern University. She is from all over the continental United States, but went to high school in Statesboro, GA. She spends most of her time playing with her two cats or reading for fun. Her love of Jane Austen fuels her research and her passion for literature. She will graduate in Spring of 2023 and plans to seek her Master's degree in English at Georgia Southern.

## Hayley Coles Bowen, Literature, Women's & Gender Studies

**Dr. Joe Pellegrino**

**- Department of Literature**

### Desire in Bridgerton: Defining the Female Gaze

Feminist literature is rife with multiple, sometimes conflicting, sometimes partial, definitions of the female gaze. A definitive understanding of the female gaze incorporates the literature but includes other modes of thought and analysis appropriate for a number of different media. *Bridgerton* articulates this understanding as it privileges female sexuality not just through dialogue, but through its focus on multiple characters' bodily awareness. Non-verbal elements like blocking, the physical articulation of bodies, changes in camera angles and foci that privilege subtle and nuanced movements, and even the pervasive use of music all contribute to the form and characterization of the female gaze. All of these elements create an emphasis on feeling and internal thought which is more important than the ongoing action.



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