The L&S Honors Program proudly hosts the

2024 Senior Honors Thesis Symposium

A Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

Friday, April 19, 2024
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pyle Center
Brains, brains, brains (Room 209)

Preethi Saravanan (Biology): “Distribution of mesoamygdaloid dopaminergic innervation in hemiparkinsonian monkeys”

Cade Hottman (Neurobiology and Molecular & Cell Biology): “Identifying cortical areas by their gene expression profiles”

Julia Bink (Neurobiology and Psychology): “Sleep and Alzheimer’s: the Association Between Sleep Apnea-Hypopnea Index and Cerebral Spinal Fluid Biomarker’s”

Lauren Gitzlaff (Zoology): “Relationships between brain microstructure and Braak Stage progression in Alzheimer’s disease (AD)”

Hollie Wierschke (Psychology): “Greater maternal inflammation during pregnancy is associated with reduced subcortical volumes in the infant brain”

Social pressures, social care (Room 213)

Ellie Thoma (Psychology): “The Effects of Social Connectedness: From Public Housing & Vouchers to the Classroom”

Abigail Collins (Psychology): ““As a Father of Two Daughters...”: The Influence of Having Daughters on Policy Makers’ Real and Perceived Gender Egalitarianism”

Ethan Yang (Economics): “School Closure and Family Housing Preferences”

Sarah Gesner (Sociology & Spanish): “Imagen That: The Influence of TikTok and Film in the Recent Evolution of Women’s Body and Beauty Norms in Spain”

Oli Wright (History): “The Death of Oiwa and her Centuries of Vengeance: Yotsuya Kaidan Through Time”

Learning, right, and wrong (Room 225)

Kaldan Kopp (Philosophy): “Positional Reasoning as a Quantified Solution to Epistemic Problems”


Agam Goyal (Computer Sciences): “Interpretable Extraction of Latent Spatiotemporal Emergent Properties of Complex Network Dynamics”

Pragati Maheshwary (Computer Sciences): “Comparative Analysis of Augmented Reality Landmark-Based Navigation: Insights from Sighted and Low-Vision Participants”
Government and economy (Room 232)

Haozhan Gao (Economics): “Overeducation in Social Learning”


Charles Pei (History): “‘World Drifters’: Institutional Reform, Illicit Enterprise, and Organized Crime in a Post-Socialist Factory Town, 1985 to the Present”

Paul Chung (Computer Sciences): “Shawshank Prison: Identifying Network Censorship Patterns and Approaches Used by ISPs around the World”

Will Romano (Journalism): “Media as a U.S. foreign policy tool against communism in Latin America and the former Soviet bloc, 1940 – 1995”

Session 2:
2:25 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Expressions of Biology (room 209)

Ethan Lin (Microbiology): “Tracking Subclonal Resistance in Patient-Derived Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Organoids”

Megan Nielsen (Genetics & Genomics): “Epigenetic augmentation of MHCI expression sensitizes tumors to PC-CAR T cells in MHC-deficient models of high-risk neuroblastoma”

Carl Shirley (Molecular & Cell Biology): “STING/AXL Expression States Dictate Type I IFN Response in Melanoma”

Kristen Stott (Biology): “Fibrotic precision-cut lung slices for assessment of radiolabeled probe targeting”

Victoria Tholkes (Biochemistry): “Unraveling the Complexities of Telomerase Regulation by the Telomeric D-Loop”

Earthly survival (room 213)


Noelle Candler (Gender & Women’s Studies): “‘Hold me, water’: Exploring Care Collectives and Colonial Realities in Cantoras by Caro De Robertis”


Lucy Pyne (Civil and Environmental Engineering): “Understanding Influences on Dengue Case Counts Throughout Colombia”

Analea Scott (Pathobiological Sciences): “Investigating Regulation of the Salmonella DMSO Reductases by alternate electron acceptor availability”
**Arts and realities (room 225)**

Chloe Foor (History): “Enchanted Landscapes: Transforming Spaces through Witchcraft and Sorcery in 17th-century Cartagena”

Elsa Debargue (Spanish and International Studies): “The Unearthed of Gender Dynamics: The Leading Women of La Movida Madrileña”

Eva Kushner (Art History): “Conditional Ownership: The Restitution of Nazi-Looted Art and Provenance Ethics in Museums”

Victoria Stuart (Art History): “Can’t Touch This: Exhibition-Making and Imaginative Touch at The Cloisters’s ‘Heavenly Bodies’”

Anna Nelson (Philosophy and Gender & Women’s Studies): “When Feminists Disagree: Pedagogical Responsibilities in Teaching Feminist Theory”

**Supermassive to microscopic (room 232)**


Vicki Braianova (Physics): “Using the Continuous Voxel Intensity Distribution to analyze simulations of line intensity mapping with the [CII] line”

Sirawit Lertwiriyapiti (Chemistry): “Phage-assisted evolution of ribosomally synthesized cyclic peptides for inhibition of a transcriptional repressor LexA autoproteolysis”

Amory Griffin (Chemistry): “Silver Catalyzed C–H Amination as a Route to Novel Mycobacterium tuberculosis Inhibitors”

**Session 3:**
3:35 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.

**Reading and writing history (room 209)**

Michael Rubinos (Art History): “Unsettled Masculinities: Homoeroticism & Orientalizing Tropes in Revolt at Cairo (1810)”

Cayden Kirkpatrick (History): “Managing the “Long Knives”: Ho-Chunk International Policy Between the War of 1812 and the Black Hawk War”

Aliza Ramirez (History): “‘Barriers Burned Away’?: (Re)constructions of Race, Relief, and Citizenship following the 1874 Chicago Fire”

Aliya Glasper (Art History): “Aesthetics of Care: the FWD: Truth Campaign & Community-Based Repair”
**Environmental factors (room 213)**

Ethan Seng (Bacteriology): “Engineering of bacterial strains for biosynthesis of biodegradable plastics from dairy waste streams”


Ronan Montgomery-Taylor (Botany): “Using Biological Mock Communities to Investigate Bias in the Community Sequencing of AM Fungi”

Ashton Jenks (Anthropology): “Morphological Sexual Dimorphism with an eye to Homo naledi”

**Pinky and the brain (room 225)**

Mohan Kumar (Zoology): “Neuroimmunology: Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) Infection reduces NPC proliferation in the Dentate Gyrus in vivo”

Andrew Liang (Neurobiology): “Identifying Mechanisms Underlying Neurodegeneration by Tmem135 Overexpression through Lipidomic Analysis”

Paige Ung (Neurobiology): “Effects of Mitochondrial Rcc1-like Gene on Hippocampal Learning and Memory”

Grace Turner (Communication Sciences & Disorders): “Stability of Right Hemisphere Speaking Induced Suppression”

**Systems and language (room 232)**

Halle Timm (Communication Sciences & Disorders): “Do bilingual children learn new signs better than monolingual children?”

Henry Nomeland (Statistics): “Interpretable Dialect Classification: A Statistical Modeling Pipeline for Identifying Phonetic Dialect Features”

Harris Zhang (Computer Sciences): “CounterCurate: Enhancing Physical and Semantic Visio-Linguistic Compositional Reasoning via Counterfactual Examples”

Yijing Zhang (Computer Sciences): “Methods for domain-specific fine-tuning for generative models”

**Reception**

4:30 p.m.

Presenters should stop by the hallway next to room 209 to receive a gift from the Honors Program. All are welcome to come and celebrate the accomplishments of the student presenters.