



Honors Program
COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The L&S Honors Program proudly hosts the

2026 Senior Honors Thesis Symposium

A Celebration of
Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

Friday, April 24, 2026

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Union South

Please use the following QR code to explore the abstracts submitted by each presenter!



REGISTRATION: Begins at 1:00 PM outside of Northwoods (3rd Floor)

SESSION 1: 1:20 PM - 2:50 PM

1A - Rewiring Disease

LANDMARK A

Rin Ma (Biology)

RAMP1 Knockout Predicted to Sensitize BRAF-Mutant Melanoma to Dual BRAF/MEK Inhibition by Restoring CD8⁺ T Cell Cytotoxicity

Riley Huddleston (Biology)

Establishing the Persistence of Natural Hyperandrogenism in Rhesus Macaques: Toward a non-Inductive Animal Model of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome

Grace Benish (Neurobiology)

WNT and SHH dynamics bias human cortical interneuron subtype specificity in an MGE organoid model

Candie Lin (Biology)

Targeting EphA2 in HNSCC to Improve Tumor Immunogenicity

Jiayi (Hebe) Ke (Neurobiology)

Determining the importance of Bet1L in skeletal muscle and its role in ALS pathogenesis

Anastacia Glonek (Neurobiology)

The Increased Effect Brain-Computer Interface-Functional Electrical Stimulation Therapy has on Chronic Stroke Survivor's Upper Extremity Motor Function Gains with the Inclusion of a High Intensity Tongue Display Unit as Measured by the Action Research Arm Test

1B - Mechanisms and Adaptations

LANDMARK B

Raquel Bello (Conservation Biology)

Angler Release Rates in Freshwater Recreational Fisheries in the United States

Dharshita Nellore (Biology)

Apoplast, Apoplast! Which Apoplast Do You Like? - Biochemically Altered Apoplasts in Tomato for Xanthomonas and Pseudomonas

Julia Mercer (Neurobiology)

Higher Temperatures are Proposed to Increase the Frequency of Rhythmic Activity in Spinal Central Pattern Generator Cells in Larval Zebrafish

Aarav Barde (Biochemistry)

pH manipulation in NMR Spectroscopy using Protonated Merocyanines

Gavin Chang (Biochemistry)

Conditional Lethality Identifies Mitochondrial Complex I as the Primary Functional Target of Deguelin

Laura Hyde (Neurobiology)

Dynamic changes in Hox Gene Expression during Somite and Neural Tube Development

1C - Formations of Fine Art and Thought

AGRICULTURE

Evie Erickson (History)

From Literacy to Liberation: On the Intellectual Formation of Edward Said

Erin Sitrin (History)

The Katte Affair: Family, Sexuality, and the Subjugation of Frederick the Great

Ann Lundstrom (English)

What Remains: Memory, Medicine, and the Role of Literature

Rachel Reichard (Art History)

Exploring Space and Body in Auguste Rodin's Assemblages through Devised Movement Theatre

Yuwen Yang (Theatre and Drama)

Imagining a new Chineseness: Chinese International Students' Theatre in the U.S. from 1906-1931

Spencer Chun (History)

Liang Qichao: the Mover and Shaker of modern China

1D - Reprogramming Life

INDUSTRY A

Isadora Collins (Molecular and Cell Biology)

Analysis of a novel iron-sulfur cluster synthesis protein found in *Novosphingobium aromaticivorans*

Jeremy Kannel (Molecular and Cell Biology)

Investigation into the role of photorespiration and amino acid metabolism defects on TOR activity in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

Yibo Dai (Molecular and Cell Biology)

Mapping Germ Cell Development in the Sexual Planarian *Schmidtea mediterranea* Using Single-cell Transcriptomics

Mannet Sidhu (Molecular and Cell Biology)

Investigating the Impact of Methionine Restriction and SLC7A11 Inhibitors on Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Tudor Belean (Biology)

Regeneration Enhancer Knock-In Drives Injury-Specific Expression of Pro-Regeneration Genes

Khadijah Dhoondia (Biology)

A Scoping Review on Methodologies for Addressing Response Shift in Patient-Reported Outcome Measures for Cancer Survivors

1E - How Systems Shape Behavior

INDUSTRY B

Alexandra Kocheny (Geography)

Resilience in the Great Lakes: A Comparative Analysis of Flood Resilience Planning in Mid-Sized Coastal Cities

Chloe Mitzner (Journalism)

Podcast Politics: Podcasts' appeals to Gen Z male voters

Heewone Lim (Journalism)

Quiet in the Library: The U.S. Information Service and Korean Student Resistance

Cleo Whitney (Journalism)

Adolescents' Representations of Physical Activity on Social Media: Solo or Social?

Siena Keys (Psychology)

Promoting sustainable consumption through social norms messaging: An experimental test

Sarah Yosef (Legal Studies)

From the Classroom to Confinement: How Juvenile Detention Replicates School-based Exclusion?

INTERMISSION AND RECEPTION: 3:00 PM in Northwoods

Presenters and guests, please join Honors Program Director Dan Kapust and the L&S Honors Staff for a special event. Dan will share remarks and recognize our 2026 ***Excellence in Honors Thesis Advising awardees***. We invite all who attend to enjoy the desserts and beverages provided.

2A - Power, Policy, and Public Good

LANDMARK A

Simran Agarwal (Political Science)

Effectiveness of Sanctions

Andre Vardanyan (Economics)

The Effect of Policy Incentives on Electric Vehicle Adoption in the European Union

Kaushal Dasika (Political Science)

Measuring the Potential of Artificial Intelligence to Assist Local Governance

Arwen Lyons (History and Legal Studies)

Private Property Beneath the Fruited Plain: The Cold War Minuteman Missile Program and Military use of Eminent Domain on Tribal and Settled land.

Lalitha Viswanathan (Journalism)

Brahmin Press, Dravidian Power: The Hindu's coverage of the 1967 Madras State Legislative Assembly Election

Mya Suneja (Psychology)

The Role of Social Support in the Relationship Between Higher Education in Prison and Depressive Symptomatology

Marie Meyer (Religious Studies)

Tuberculosis Prevention as a Moral Obligation: An Analysis of the National Tuberculosis Association's Christmas Seal Campaign through a Religious Studies Perspective

2B - Inequality in Action

LANDMARK B

Reem Itani (Political Science)

The Gendered Aspect of Forced Migration: A Comparison of Syrian Female and Male Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan

Sincere Whaleysmith (Sociology)

Grocery Stores and Food Insecurity

Hunter Haines (Psychology)

College Students' Views of Sexual Experiences: The Role of Rape Myths and Racial Stereotypes

Michael Montgomery (Biology and Psychology)

Relationship between poverty, pubertal timing, and neural reward processing in adolescents

Rayane Prado Nunes (Psychology)

When do children stand up to bias? Investigating children's responses to race-based exclusion

Kaitlyn Meier (Psychology)

Helping or Hindering: The Role of Caregiver Characteristics and Scaffolding on Children's Science Learning

Julia Donaldson (History)

Cover Ups and Consequences: A Comparative Analysis of Postwar Accountability for Klaus Barbie and Wernher von Braun

2C - How Humans Understand

AGRICULTURE

Theo Bang (Linguistics)

The Multilingual Gay /s/: How the /s/ is produced and perceived in Spanish-English bilinguals

Hannah Sherman (Communication Sciences and Disorders)

Structured Perceptual Evaluation of Children's Speech by Undergraduate Students

Howard Owens (Psychology)

The Role of Environmental Responsiveness in Infant Language Learning

Renee Chau (Linguistics)

Survey of Heritage Chinese in Chicago Chinatown

Nick Tarantino (Psychology)

Canonical Associations Between Numerosity and Linear Trends in Arrays

Mihir Manna (Physics)

Effect of Discussion Prompt Scaffolds on Argumentation by Introductory Physics Students

2D - Life, Mind, and Matter

INDUSTRY A

Megan Hernandez (Neurobiology)

Tracing the neuroplasticity across the auditory system following learning of non-native phonetic contrasts

Edison Netter (Biochemistry)

Optimizing the Expression and Purification of the Core Replication - Transcription Complex from Mouse Hepatitis Virus

Geoffrey Saemann (Biochemistry)

Heterobifunctional LYTACs degrade α -synuclein fibrils in hepatocyte cell culture

Henry Wolfe (Chemistry)

Quantifying pH Dependence of Nucleotide Extinction Coefficients: Considerations for UV Transmission in Prebiotic Waters

Ellise Markevitch (Neurobiology)

Assessing gut microbiome diversity and composition in asthma and depression

Owen Blomberg (Zoology)

The endocast of *Parasuchus bransoni* with implications for wider Phytosauria

2E - Engineering in the Physical World

INDUSTRY B

Oscar Li (Chemistry)

Insights into Mechanisms of Ni-Catalyzed Cross-Electrophile Coupling Reaction

Catherine Wollmuth (Chemistry)

Asymmetric Axial Ligand Substitution of HEMACs

Eliana Bernat (Chemistry)

Mixed Aqueous–Organic Solvent Strategy Enables Phase & Crystallization Control of High n 2D Tin Perovskites

Nicholas Schense (Physics)

Application of Uncertainty Quantification to an Alzheimer’s Diagnosis Neural Network for Improved Clinical Translation

Sofiia Lauten (Physics)

Physics-Informed Neural Networks for Gate Design using Quantum Optimal Control

Guizhong (Harry) Luo (Physics)

A Qubit in an Oscillator: From Ideal GKP Codes to Energy-Scaled Error Mitigation

2F - Thinking with Models and Machines

ALUMNI (Second Floor)

Ashwini Kumble (Psychology)

Remove, Replace, Refine: A Computational Approach to Improving Color Palettes for Data Visualization

Rishit Malpani (Computer Sciences)

Distributionally Robust Instruction Fine-Tuning (DRIFT) in Large Language Models

Bingyixuan Dong (Computer Sciences)

Enhancing Visualization in Computer Science Education Through AI-Powered Visual Generation

Zixuan Peng (Computer Sciences)

On the Nature of Strings

Muhammad Ashiq (Computer Sciences)

A Theoretical Analysis of Mode Interpolation Hallucinations in ODE and SDE Diffusion Inference Procedures

Sukrut Chikodikar (Computer Sciences)

An Empirical Analysis of Stochastic Online Conformal Prediction with Semi-Bandit Feedback

Srujay Reddy Jakkidi (Computer Sciences)

Decomposing Kubernetes Pod Startup Latency Under Bandwidth Constraints