



UWG

Scholars' Day

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

A Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship

April 5, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST GEORGIA

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (OUR)

Faculty-directed undergraduate research complements classroom learning through learning-by-doing and reflection on doing, and as such provides an additional educational opportunity that transforms our students into scholars. Undergraduate research experience is invaluable and provides our scholars with a multitude of opportunities while they are enrolled at West Georgia and upon completion of their undergraduate degrees.

We are dedicated to facilitating undergraduate student involvement in scholarly research in all academic fields.

www.westga.edu/our

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Amy Ellison, Senior Lecturer of English

Dr. James Mayer, Associate Professor of Geology

Dr. Kathleen Morales, Associate Professor of Nursing

Dr. Chelsea Morris, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, Faculty Director of the COE Early Learning Center

Dr. Nathan Rees, Associate Professor of Art History

Craig Schroer, Head of Public Services and Systems Librarian, Ingram Library

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Dr. Jennifer Beggs Weber, Associate Professor of Sociology, Director of the Minor in Women's Studies

Dr. Jeffrey Zamostny, Associate Professor of Spanish, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research

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A Celebration of Undergraduate Scholarship

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

University of West Georgia students work on amazing research in many academic disciplines. The Office of Undergraduate Research and the Honors College sponsor this conference to provide the UWG community a chance to learn about the student research happening across our campus. Today, students present their work to their peers and to the faculty and staff, and we all have a chance to experience the research that is going on across disciplines. We hope to inspire interdisciplinary dialogues and a continuing interest in all the research that UWG students are doing. The Scholars' Day Undergraduate Research Conference is an inclusive celebration of undergraduate research at the University of West Georgia. We invite all in attendance to engage with the many panels and posters presented today!

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

12:00-3:30 pm: Check-in, Campus Center Atrium

12:30-2:30 pm: Poster Session, Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

12:30-1:30 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 1, Pafford Social Science Building

1:40-2:40 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 2, Pafford Social Science Building

2:50-3:50 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 3, Pafford Social Science Building

4:00-5:00 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 4, Pafford Social Science Building

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

SESSION I 12:30-1:30

Panel 1, Improving Life for Young People through Interpersonal Bonds & Literature Pafford 112

Moderated by Katie Blount

Cali Miller, "Igniting a Spark"
Mentored by Dr. Thomas Peterson

Alexis Smith, "You Got a Friend in Me: Friendships in College"
Mentored by Dr. Ryan Bronkema

Dominic Grimaldi, "Gods, Kings, and Teenagers: Y.A. Fantasy Literature as Art Therapy"
Mentored by Dr. Alison Umminger

Panel 2, Progress in Biology & Physics Pafford 110

Moderated by Megan Henley

Alane Rogers, "Relationship between Hypothalamic–Pituitary–Adrenal Axis Functioning and Development of Anxiety Disorders as a Result of Stress"
Mentored by Dr. Melissa Johnson

Elye Puckett, "Identification and Biochemical Characterizations of Two Novel, Heavy Metal-tolerant Bacterial Strains which Synthesize Commercially Important Carotenoids"
Mentored by Dr. Mautusi Mitra

Colton Norfleet, "Principles of the Dynamics in Piezoelectric and Triboelectric Energy Generation"
Mentored by Dr. Lok Lew Yan Voon

Panel 3, Art in a Time of Pandemic Pafford 106

Moderated by Payton Massey

Sabrina Skinner, "Tam Van Tran: A Critical Review and an Artist's Perspective of the Pandemic"
Mentored by Dr. Nathan Rees

Zoe Brooks, "Elyn Zimmerman's Cityscapes and Covid-19"
Mentored by Dr. Nathan Rees

Mariah Akogun, "Capturing the Story of Community: Lenore Chinn and *The Family*"
Mentored by Dr. Nathan Rees

SESSION II 1:40-2:40

Panel 1, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Physical & Mental Health

Pafford 112

Moderated by Nicole Branum

Abigail Michel, "How Do Parents Choose a Pediatrician?"

Mentored by Dr. Tiffany Parsons

Natalie Hobbs, "Antibiotic Resistance of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and the Effect of Comprehensive Sexual Education of Reducing Infection Rates in Young Adults"

Mentored by Dr. Melissa Johnson

Brooke Foster, "Ecopsychology as an Affirmative Therapy"

Mentored by Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre

Panel 2, Potentials & Limitations of Technology for Facilitating Daily Life

Pafford 110

Moderated by Rebekah Woodall

Steven Kight, "Prototyping a UWG-centric Smart Assistant to Support Student Life"

Mentored by Dr. Ana Stanescu

Aaron Gann, "How Has Using IT to Work from Home Affected Employees' Productivity during the Pandemic?"

Mentored by Dr. Jeannie Pridmore

Mary Finlay, "We Cannot Rely Solely on Translation Tools"

Mentored by Dr. Yvonne Fuentes

Panel 3, Exploring Self & Other in Philosophy & Literature

Pafford 106

Moderated by Danielle Gorman

Emily Tillman, "Friedrich Nietzsche and the Problem of Ego"

Mentored by Dr. Janet Donohoe

Cole Fisher, "Incarnation in Cortázar's 'Axolotl'"

Mentored by Dr. Betsy Dahms

Aya Walton, "Social Divide and Otherness in Damon Galgut's *The Good Doctor*"

Mentored by Dr. Maria Doyle

**Panel 4, Anthropological Approaches to Narratives of Loss & Haunting
Pafford 109**

Moderated by Dominic Grimaldi

Emily Moon, "Haunting Narratives"
Mentored by Dr. Lisa Gezon

Michaela Whitley, "Archaeology of the Post-Archaic American Southwest: Ancestral Puebloan Culture & The Subsequent Collapse"
Mentored by Dr. Marjorie Snipes

SESSION III 2:50-3:50

**Panel 1, Language & Culture in Liminal Spaces
Pafford 112**

Moderated by Katie Blount

Courtney Vance, "'Native Speaker' - Accurate Description or Misleading Moniker?"
Mentored by Dr. Lisa Connell

Isabella Herring, "Cultural Claiming and Oppression in *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*"
Mentored by Dr. Rebecca Harrison

Aya Walton, "Racial and National Parallels in *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*"
Mentored by Dr. Rebecca Harrison

**Panel 2, Views on the Existence of God & the Soul
Pafford 110**

Moderated by Danielle Gorman

Megan Tackett, "The Soul as Suffering: Insights into Augustine's Concepts of Trauma and the Soul in *City of God*"
Mentored by Dr. Nadejda Williams

Elijah Brawner, "Who Is the Watchmaker: Traits of the God of the Old Design"
Mentored by Dr. John Garner

**Panel 3, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Race, Gender & Bias
Pafford 106**

Moderated by Kesiena Tuoyo

Jayda Holley, "Racism in Healthcare: A Negative Impact on Health"
Mentored by Dr. Kathleen Morales and Dr. Nancy Capponi

Katelyn Edwards, "Through the Eyes of the Beholder: Mass Media's Impact on African American Women's Perspective of Beauty"
Mentored by Dr. N. Jane McCandless

Allyson Deskins, "Yes, That is Microaggressive! Perspectives on Microaggressions Training in Education"
Mentored by Dr. Andrea Crenshaw

Panel 4, Filmmaking & Film Critique

Pafford 109

Moderated by Abigail Carter

India Standley, "A Purple Bridge: The Path of a Screenwriter"
Mentored by Deon Kay

Sarah Rand, "Feminism and the Colonized Kingdom: Exploring Wes Anderson's *Moonrise Kingdom* and the Complexities of Gender"
Mentored by Dr. Angela Insenga

SESSION IV 4:00-5:00

Panel 1, Challenging Gender Norms in Literature & Film of the Mid-20th Century

Pafford 112

Moderated by Courtney Vance

Danielle Gorman, "Spreading the Wings of the Butterfly: Analyzing the Symbolism of the Mariposa in Welty's 'Music From Spain'"
Mentored by Dr. Rebecca Harrison

Grace Huff, "A Distorted Family Tree: The Toxicity of King MacLain's Legacy in *The Golden Apples*"
Mentored by Dr. Rebecca Harrison

Alexandria Griffin, "Greek Mythos and the Reshaping of Gender Roles in François Truffaut's *Jules et Jim*"
Mentored by Dr. Lynn Anderson

Panel 2, Social Barriers & Lived Experiences: Homelessness, Foster Care, and Incarceration

Pafford 110

Moderated by Ashanti Lane

Arial Hutchinson, "The Perception of Homelessness"
Mentored by Dr. Tiffany Parsons

Karen Rogers, "Homeless Mental Health and Incarceration"
Mentored by Dr. Tiffany Parsons

Gabrielle Williams, "F.O.S.T.E.R (Family. Over. Systematic. Trauma. Eliminates. Recklessness)"
Mentored by Dr. Andrea Crenshaw

**Panel 3, The Essence of /
Pafford 106
Moderated by Cole Fisher**

Sandy Wilson, "Nietzsche and Debeauvoir on the Female Essence"
Mentored by Dr. Janet Donohoe

Casey Hart, "Le 'Je' contre le 'Nous'"
Mentored by Dr. Janet Donohoe

Idris Williams, "The Isolation of Queer Blackness"
Mentored by Dr. Janet Donohoe

**Panel 4, Plagues, Literal & Metaphoric: Patriarchy & Pandemics
Pafford 109
Moderated by Reece Cook**

Kari Wood, "A Plurality of Plagues: How Bo Burnham's *Inside* Explores the Cultural Pandemics of Twenty-First Century America"
Mentored by Dr. Joshua Masters

Emily Tillman, "Duty, Emotional Labor, and Genuine Love"
Mentored by Dr. Rosemary Kellison

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

12:30-2:30 P.M. | CAMPUS CENTER BALLROOM 108.2

Listed alphabetically by student's last name

William Anderson, "Spatial Analysis of Natural Disasters in Sri Lanka from 1988-2021"
Mentored by Dr. Jeong Seong

Jayden Baldwin, "A New Exceptionally Preserved Paracrinoïd from the Neuville Formation of Québec, Canada"
Mentored by Dr. Bradley Deline

Colby Barton, "Where to Sit in a Movie Theatre"
Mentored by Dr. Amin Boumenir

Kelli Breed, "TIME to Diversify: A Study on Diversity of Race and Gender on TIME Magazine Covers"
Mentored by Dr. Soo Moon

Dorien Carpenter, "Classical Model of a Diatomic Molecule"
Mentored by Dr. Javier Hasbun

Amanda Clay and Cassi Palma, "Determining Olfactory Sensory Neurons Expressing the M72 Odor Receptor by Testing the Validity of a Linear Correlation Model"
Mentored by Dr. Melissa Johnson

Mykia Conyers, "Girls Empowering Movement"
Mentored by Dr. Peter Stoepker

Charlie Davenport, "Computer Simulations of Proton Motion through Supercooled Aqueous Solutions"
Mentored by Dr. John Hansen

Allyson Deskins, "Rebound & Recovery"
Mentored by Dr. Chelsea Morris

Jamia Echols, "Solving Magic Figures"
Mentored by Dr. Anja Remshagen

Raymond Eyo and Katravius Mitchell, "Antioxidant Activity of Essential Oils"
Mentored by Dr. Vickie Geisler

Santiago Fernandez, "Managing Sustainable Entities"
Mentored by Dr. Susana Velez-Castrillon

Ethan Freligh, "MLB Hall of Fame Voting Patterns and the Impact of Information Shocks"
Mentored by Dr. Michael Sinkey

Allison Hanham, "Fluorescence of CdSe QDs: Effects of Halide and Amine P"
Mentored by Dr. Martin McPhail

Owen Haynes, "She Broke My Heart, So I Fixed it with Calculus"
Mentored by Dr. Amin Boumenir

William Helton, "Addressing Students' Solutions Chemistry Misconceptions through
Conceptual Reasoning"
Mentored by Dr. Logan Leslie

David Lauria, "A Study of the Loss of Greenness in Metro Atlanta: 2001-2019"
Mentored by Dr. Jeong Seong

Tennessee Mena, "West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail: A Look into Nonlocal Ownership"
Mentored by Dr. Andy Walter, Dr. Ann McCleary, and Prof. Keri Adams

Kaitlin Montgomery, "A Comprehensive Review of Practices and Attitudes towards
Telepractice in Pediatric Speech-Language Pathology Before & During the COVID-19
Pandemic"
Mentored by Dr. Twyla Perryman

Jarod Moss, "Regulating Redox and Spin State Behavior of bis-Terpy Fe(II) via Subtle
Structural Modifications of the Molecular Structure"
Mentored by Dr. Spencer Slattery

Evangelina Perez, "Let's Connect: A Preliminary Investigation of Public Relations Strategies
within an LLC"
Mentored by Dr. Morris Council

Yessica Perez and Eli Perez-Lopez, "Chitosan from Shrimp Shells to Biodegradable
Plastic"
Mentored by Dr. Megumi Fujita

Ayanna Powell, "Girls Empowering Movement (GEM): An Analysis of Middle School Girl
Physical Activity"
Mentored by Dr. Duke Biber

Aliyah Raines, "The Basics West Georgia"
Mentored by Dr. Chelsea Morris

Jaela Reese, Marissa Keeler, and Ryan Spencer, "Is There Room for Two Guests? Guest-Host Interaction Measured by Absorption and Emission Spectroscopy"
Mentored by Dr. Farooq Khan and Dr. John Hansen

Lacey Shoemake, "Thematic Analysis of Healthcare Workers' Responses to the Coronavirus Pandemic"
Mentored by Dr. Kathleen Morales and Dr. Nancy Capponi

Lauren Sibley, "Then and Now"
Mentored by Dr. Andy Walter

Andrew Smith, "How to Win a Baseball Game"
Mentored by Dr. Amin Boumenir

Ryan Spencer, "Molecular Surfaces of Carbon Nanotubes Assisting in the Chemical Decomposition of Congo Red"
Mentored by Dr. John Hansen

Kenzie Stoup and Christian McDowell, "Synthetic Studies to a Novel Pyrimidodiazepine-based Anti-folate as a Potential Anti-cancer Drug"
Mentored by Dr. Partha Ray

Jasmine Taylor, "Does Animal Decay Vary by Tissue Type and Position in a Pine Forest Ecosystem?"
Mentored by Dr. Joe Hendricks

Ethan Todorovich, "Youth Soccer Coaches' Perspectives and Intentions to Develop Players' Proficient Use of the Non-Dominant Leg"
Mentored by Dr. Brian Mosier

Daija Walton, "The Continual Need and Evolution of Ethics in Aesthetic Nursing"
Mentored by Dr. Kathleen Morales and Dr. Nancy Capponi

Megan Ware, "Bone Meal- Good for Plants, Not for Artifacts"
Mentored by Dr. Nathan Lawres

Alex Zamora, "Analyzing the Impact of the Silver Comet Trail on Home Values"
Mentored by Dr. Heather Bono

Acknowledgements and Sponsors

Office of the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

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The members of the Undergraduate Research Committee

Honors College

Thank you to all faculty mentors

Thank you to all student presenters & moderators



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