2022

CAS Honors Symposium Program, Spring 2023

College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program

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The College of Arts & Sciences' SPRING 2023 HONORS SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, May 2, 2023
1:00–2:30 PM
Keches Room & Commons, Sargent Hall

Featuring senior theses and projects.

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Suffolk University CAS Honors Program
Jillian Allen
"Probing Protein Interactions in Bacterial Conjugation Machinery"
Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen
Major: Biochemistry

Max Anzede
"The Role of Marine Sentinel Species in the Gulf of Maine: A One Health Model"
Project Supervisor: Professor Nadine Lysiak
Major: Biology

Kayla Armstrong
"The self-defense claim: is it working for battered women?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Ainsley Ayers
"The historical evolution of public relations and ethical practice"
Project Supervisor: Professor Cynthia Irizarry
Major: Public Relations

Andrew Badaoui
"RbsD as a Competing Endogenous RNA and Novel Regulator of RpoS"
Project Supervisor: Professor Celeste Peterson
Major: Biology

Kayley Baker
"The Diversity of Romantic Love: Debunking Cultural Homogeneity"
Project Supervisor: Professor Bobbi Van Gilder
Major: Global and Cultural Communication

Ghena Bakir
"A pilot study to assess the prevalence of tick-borne pathogens in the Boston Harbor Islands"
Project Supervisor: Professor Magnus O’Seaghdha
Major: Biology

Abby Thornhill
"Determinants of the Localization of the Conjugation Protein ConB in Bacillus subtilis"
Project Supervisor: Professor Melanie Berkmen
Major: Biochemistry

Sarah Wach
"Leadership and Mentorship in Community Cancer Care | Service Learning"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jessica Mak
Major: Law

Alexa White
"Fishing For Phenotypes: Repurposing A Transposon Mutagenesis Tool For Marine Bacteria"
Project Supervisor: Professor Magnus O’Seaghdha
Major: Biology

Kathryn Winans
"Districting by Race Majority: The Effects of Gerrymandering in the Texas House of Representatives"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb
Major: Political Science

Maisie Winter
"Island Time: How the ferry passage enhances social identity and community wellbeing on Peaks Island"
Project Supervisor: Professor Bobbi Van Gilder
Major: Global and Cultural Communication

Paola Yamal-Santiago
"Survivor, Public Interaction, and the Cosmopolitan Canopy"
Project Supervisor: Professor Keri Iyall Smith
Major: Sociology

Daniela Zheng Fung
"How does the DAF-7 TGF-β signaling pathway affect the dense core vesicle protein IDA-1?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Annette McGehee
Major: Biology

Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner
Melisa Balla  
"Ribose as a signal to emerge from dormant state and lower RpoS levels"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Celeste Peterson  
Major: Biology

Jamie Barber  
"Why Sociology? The Importance of Sociological Applications in Daily Life"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Keri Iyall Smith  
Majors: Sociology & Criminal Justice

Ana Luiza Bernardes  
"The Disadvantages Within Marginalized Communities to Establish Implausible Burden of Proofs within the Immigration Legal System"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Liliana Mangiafico  
Majors: Law & Political Science

Mack Brown  
"Intersectional Indigeneity: Native American Women’s Power and Authority in Contemporary Fiction"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Leslie Eckel  
Major: English  
*Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner*

Aaron Byrne  
"Natural v. Unnatural Accumulation of Snow"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Joseph Bertrand  
Major: Law

Kira Chick  
"TikTok’s Link to Eating Disorders and Body Image Issues in Young Women"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri  
Major: Public Relations

Tien Chung  
"Implementing a Starset Programming Language Compiler: Bringing Code to Life"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Dmitry Zinoviev  
Major: Computer Science

Katherine St Pierre  
"The Gut-Brain Axis: Understanding the Influence of the Microbiome on Physical and Mental Health"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson  
Major: Psychology  
*Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner*

Nitya Sharma  
"Syllable Repetition Tasks in ALS: Foreshadowing in Medicine"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Maghnus O’Seaghdha  
Major: Biology

Carter Shaw  
"Artificial Intelligence and the Dynamic Future of Education"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Donna Giancola  
Majors: Philosophy & Law

Jordan Smith  
"Women and True Crime: An Examination of Women’s Motivation for Consuming True Crime Media"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Keri Iyall Smith  
Majors: Sociology & Paralegal Studies  
*Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner*

Jordi J. Smith  
"Changes in Roughtail Stingray Distribution along the Shores of Cape Cod (2004-2022)"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Eric Dewar  
Major: Biology

Katherine St Pierre  
"The Gut-Brain Axis: Understanding the Influence of the Microbiome on Physical and Mental Health"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson  
Major: Psychology  
*Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner*

Himasha Suwaris  
"Can the rationale behind British Colonialism in Sri Lanka be justified?"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Chris Melenovsky  
Major: Politics, Philosophy and Economics

Chloe Syzc  
"Did the AfD Gain Power From the Syrian Refugee Crisis?"  
Project Supervisor: Professor Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch  
Major: International Relations  
*Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner*
Gordon Clark
"The Year-to-Year Pricing of Fish: A Study of the Northeast Multispecies Fishery"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jonathan Haughton
Major: Economics

Payton Colace
"Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Emily Collins
"Social Media’s Offline Effect on Climate Change Based on User Perceptions"
Project Supervisor: Professor Bobbi Van Gilder
Majors: Journalism & Biology

Kayla Coll-Santana
"The Effect of Brand Identity and Brand Positioning on Consumer Brand Awareness and Loyalty: A Case Study of Nike"
Project Supervisor: Professor Kim Ring
Major: Public Relations

Barbara Consales
"How AI is changing the creative industry"
Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri
Major: Advertising

JD Conte
"Cancer Care Week: Promoting Healthy Lifestyles in College Classrooms"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jessica Mak
Majors: Broadcast Journalism & Political Science

Bronwyn Crick
"International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: US Hypocrisy and Human Rights Law"
Project Supervisor: Professor Chris Melenovsky
Major: Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Karla Rodriguez-Paz
"Predicting Family Stress During the COVID-19 Pandemic"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rosemarie DiBiase
Major: Psychology

Kaylee Romilus
"Reclaiming Matriarchal Cultures to Achieve a Self-Sustaining Postmodern World"
Project Supervisor: Professor Donna Giancola
Major: Philosophy

Molly Sakowicz
"Reflecting on the First 100 Days: Biden’s Environmental Politics"
Project Supervisor: Professor Christina Kulich
Majors: Political Science & Paralegal Studies

Aimee Sanchez
"Behind the Bars: The History of Charlestown State Prison"
Project Supervisor: Professor Robert Allison
Major: Political Science

Maria-Simoné Sarmiento
"Examining the Philosophical Concept of Feminism and Intersectionality"
Project Supervisor: Professor Donna Giancola
Major: Philosophy

Stefan Schmidt
"Culturally Responsive Interventions for American Indians with Historical Trauma"
Project Supervisor: Professor Sukanya Ray
Major: Psychology

Olivia Sears
"Estimating Temporal Changes in North Atlantic Right Whale (Eubalaena glacialis) Habitat Use in the Gulf of Maine Due to Anthropogenic Stressors"
Project Supervisor: Professor Nadine Lysiak
Major: Environmental Science
HONORS SENIOR THESES AND PROJECTS

Lauren Pichette
"Bending Gender With Genre"
Project Supervisor: Professor Amy Monticello
Major: English

Bianca Prescott
"S.C.O.T.U.S. & Section 230: The Statutory Language that Shields Big Tech"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jason Peterson
Major: Law

Sarianna Quarne
"Church Confessional Booth"
Project Supervisor: Professor José Araguz
Majors: English & Journalism

Maya Quirk
"What types of Harm Reduction are the most effective?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Keri Iyall Smith
Major: Sociology

Samantha Restrepo-Ramirez
"Cash Bail: The Criminalization and Dehumanization of the Poor"
Project Supervisor: Professor Erika Gebo
Majors: Criminal Justice & Sociology

Danya Rifai
"The Correlation Between Green Space and Gentrification"
Project Supervisor: Professor Hayley Schiebel
Major: Environmental Studies

Georgia Ring
"The Importance of Legal Writing"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner

HONORS SENIOR THESES AND PROJECTS

Ashlyn Curtis
"Voting Barriers: Taking the Vote from Marginalized Groups"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb
Major: Political Science

Samantha Dejean
"Avian Brain Morphology"
Project Supervisor: Professor Eugenia Gold
Major: Biology

Nicole DiBenedetto
"Approaching the Lawyer-Client Relationship"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Lindsay Dieudonne
"Food for Thought: Assessing Accessibility Using WIC and SNAP Enrollment Data and Accessibility Measures"
Project Supervisor: Jarvis Chen
Major: Political Science

Elizabeth DiLauro
"Consenting Women and Powerful Men: Consent in Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice and Film Adaptations"
Project Supervisor: Professor Hannah Hudson
Major: English

Talia Ferraro
"Greenwashing in Fast Fashion; Is Gen Z being mislead, and do they care?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri
Major: Public Relations

Kaylee Fife
"The Adsorption of Small Molecules onto the Surface of Gypsum Art"
Project Supervisor: Professor Kelsey Stocker
Major: Chemistry

Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner
Daniel Fox
"The Importance of Transgender Representation in the Media"
Project Supervisor: Professor Marjorie Salvodon
Major: Law

Jacob Gunderson-Crowley
"Expanding Families"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Carlos Hernandez
"Heart and Soul"
Project Supervisor: Professor Keith Kitz
Major: Graphic Design

Chaimaa Hossaini
"Assessment of disparities in genomic testing and next-generation sequencing among patients treated for Stage IV metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer"
Project Supervisor: Professor Celeste Peterson
Major: Biology

Ahria Ilyas
"Disability & Undue Hardship: Bankruptcy Law"
Project Supervisor: Professor Liliana Mangiafico
Major: Law

Nina Insixiengmay
"Cytotoxicity Analysis of Lead Cyclic Thiosulfimates as Candidates for ALS"
Project Supervisor: Professor Kelsey Stocker
Major: Biochemistry
Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner

Paige Irving
"From Psychology at Suffolk to a Future in Clinical Social Work"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Tyler Ohmann
"Implementing Conservation Solutions on Similar Populations: Marine Mammals"
Project Supervisor: Professor Carl Merrill
Major: Law

Emma Olson
"The Need to Ban Book Bannings"
Project Supervisor: Professor Christina Kulich
Major: Political Science

Maya Panahi
"Censorship versus Digital Activism: The Role of the Internet/Social Media in Iranian Politics"
Project Supervisor: Professor Bobbi Van Gilder
Major: Global & Cultural Communication
Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner

Chaya Pearlman
"Implementing Trauma-Informed Care into the Juvenile Justice System"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Majors: Psychology & Paralegal Studies

Allison Peixoto
"Renewable Portfolio Standards: Are They Successful at Pushing for a Green Economy?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jonathan Haughton
Major: Economics
Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner

Evangeline Perrotta
"Congress to Campus and the Law"
Project Supervisor: Professor Elizabeth Stillman
Major: Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Polina Petrova
"Senate Bill 2412: The Student Opportunity Act"
Project Supervisor: Professor Charles Chieppo
Majors: Government & Legal Studies
HONORS SENIOR THESES AND PROJECTS

Morgan Mitcheson
"Is Stigma Stigmatized?: Parental Perceptions of Self-Stigma"
Project Supervisor: Professor David Langer
Major: Psychology

Ashley Ness
"Impacts and Anticipations of Ketamine-Assisted Psychotherapy"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Matthew Newman
"Dogecoin: Why the Joke is Now a Reality"
Project Supervisor: Professor Shahruz Mohtadi
Major: Political Science

Holly Nguyen
"Spotify: Social Media Marketing Research"
Project Supervisor: Professor Maria Serraino
Major: Public Relations

Christopher Nieves
"China's Social Credit System: An Example for Other Countries or a Frightening Dystopia?"
Project Supervisor: Professor Chris Melenovsky
Major: Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Kirbie O'Brien
"A Deep Dive into Sensory Integration Theory"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Ryleigh O'Keefe
"O'Keefe 2023 Literature Review"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Maria Karol
"Overcoming Parental Alienation in Custody Battles"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Rhea Katoch
"Impact of Breathing Exercises on Stress & Anxiety"
Project Supervisor: Professor Jen Martinez
Major: Psychology

John Keeler
"Determining the Childs Best Interest; An Analysis of Child Custody Laws in Different States"
Project Supervisor: Professor Mary Flaherty
Major: Law

Shannon Kelly
"Voting Methods, Voter Registration and ID Policies, and Civic Education and Engagement in New England; A Critical Analysis of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb
Majors: Political Science & Law

Nicole Kingdon
"Low-Income Caregivers with Young Children Experience Risk and Resilience Through Pandemic-Related Stressors"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rosemarie DiBiase
Major: Psychology

Katelyn Kling
"The effect of Semantic Feature Analysis on adults with stroke induced aphasia and their word retrieval accuracy"
Project Supervisor: Professor Eric Dewar
Major: Biology

Cassandra Kuechler
"Fiction and the Fandom: The Perception of Authors' Behaviors Online"
Project Supervisor: Professor Susan Alessandri
Major: Public Relations
Honors Senior Theses and Projects

Lindsay Lamy
"Anime Chatbot"
Project Supervisor: Professor John Xu
Major: Computer Science

Abby Larmore
"Nation’s Top Nine Ethical Judges with No Standard of Ethics: How the Court May Implement a Canon Code of Conduct Before Legitimacy is Lost"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb
Major: Political Science

Grace Laverriere
"Academic Disruptions Throughout the Pandemic: How Middle School Teachers Navigate the Complex Educational Landscape"
Project Supervisor: Professor Bobbi Van Gilder
Major: Broadcast Journalism

Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner

Daniella LeBlanc
"Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Proposed Analysis of Levels Approximate to Airfields and Resulting Health Effects on Communities"
Project Supervisor: Professor Patricia Hogan
Majors: Environmental Studies & Government

Ilana Lindsey
"Flourish"
Project Supervisor: Professor Keith Kitz
Major: Graphic Design

Paul Lubelczyk
"A Historical Analysis of the Evolution of Female Role Models in Superhero Media"
Project Supervisor: Professor Robert Allison
Majors: History & Political Science

Grace MacDonald
"Menstruation Discrimination: The Inaccessibility of Menstrual Products"
Project Supervisor: Professor Miriam Arbeit
Major: Public Relations

Alexa Malson
"Raising Youth Civic Engagement"
Project Supervisor: Professor Rachael Cobb
Major: Political Science

Ellen Marcelo
"Effect of Documentation in the United States for Latino Immigrants as it Relates to Income and Labor"
Project Supervisor: Professor Keri Iyall Smith
Majors: Sociology & Law

Noah Matheson
"Choice to Serve: Women of the French Resistance"
Project Supervisor: Professor Paraska Tolan Szkilnik
Major: Media and Film

Alexandra Mathis
"The Tool of Creative Writing in Legal Writing"
Project Supervisor: Professor Amy Monticello
Major: Law

Jillian Maxwell
"Building a Limited Liability Company (LLC)"
Project Supervisor: Professor Sean Beagan
Major: Law

Kian McCabe
"External Support: The importance of community support in disability healthcare"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lance Swenson
Major: Psychology

Vivien Merryfield
"When Democracy Becomes a Crime: The Racial and Policy Implications of Felony Disenfranchisement Laws"
Project Supervisor: Professor Lucius Couloute
Major: Criminal Justice

Excellence in Honors in the Major Winner