
Honors Student Conference


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2015 Honors Student Conference: Spotlight on Research and Creativity

DePaul University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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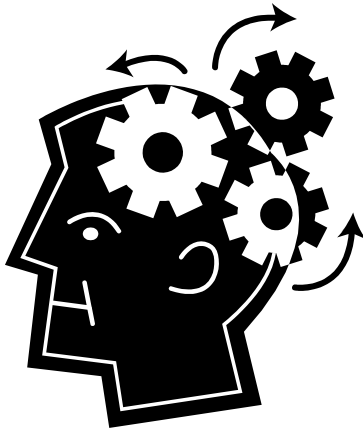
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Honors Program Staff

Rose Spalding, Director
Nancy Grossman, Associate Director
Jennifer Kosco, Assistant Director
Briana Briscoe, Program Assistant



Honors Student Conference

Spotlight on Research and Creativity

DePaul University
Honors Program

Friday, May 15, 2015
Student Center

Honors Conference Committee

Kevin Doherty, *Communication (Honors Program Graduate)*

Cathy Elias, *Music*

Nancy Grossman, *Honors Program*

Peter Hastings, *Computer Science*

Gregory Hutter, *Music*

Yevgenia Kashina, *Mathematics*

Laura Kina, *History of Art & Architecture*

Jennifer Kosco, *Honors Program*

Doug Long, *First Year Programs*

Helen Marlborough, *Retired Honors Program Director*

Jason Martin, *Journalism*

Yuki Miyamoto, *Religious Studies*

Christopher Mount, *Religious Studies*

Kristina Pouliot, *Student Representative*

Michael Raleigh, *Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse*

Bob Rotenberg, *Anthropology*

Jason Schneider, *Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse*

Rose Spalding, *Honors Program Director*

Phillip Stalley, *Political Science*

Valentina Tikoff, *History*

Chris Worthman, *Education*

6:00-6:50

C3—GLOBALIZATION, EXCLUSION & IMMIGRATION

Senior Thesis Presentations

6:00-6:50 – Room 380

Faculty Moderator: Phillip Stalley

Connor Kreger

U.S. Immigration Policy

Thesis Director: Rose Spalding

Faculty Reader: Susana Martinez

Sara Mahoney

Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement

Thesis Director: Kathryn Ibata-Arens

Faculty Reader: Phillip Stalley

Lukas Shadair

UAV Proliferation in Latin American States

Thesis Director: Gil Gott

Faculty Reader: John Karam

Shaza Loutfi

Radical Muslims: The Emergence of Political

Divisions within the Muslim-American Community

Thesis Director: Molly Andolina

Faculty Reader: Scott Hibbard

Matthew Von Nida

The Security of Europe's Migrant Labor Market:

An Analysis of Europeanization and Migration

Thesis Director: Kathleen Arnold

Faculty Reader: Shiera Malik

C4—THE WRITTEN WORD

Senior Thesis Presentations

6:00-6:50 – Room 324

Faculty Moderator: Jason Schneider

Savana Martin

Undefeated: Writing as a Source of Hope

Thesis Director: Michele McCoy

Faculty Reader: Leah Neubauer

Katherine Martin

The Role of Texts in Writing Center Tutoring

Thesis Director: Darsie Bowden

Faculty Reader: Michael Moore

Madeline Woods

Wired Literacies: The Future of Libraries in the Digital Age

Thesis Director: Jason Kalin

Faculty Reader: Nichole Pinkard

Alexis Bugajski

Hay Fever: An Exploration in Literature, Theatre, and Advertising

Thesis Director: Rebecca Cameron

Faculty Reader: Lauri Dietz

Micki Burton

Resident Mr. Darcys: The Alternative British Masculinity in Hollywood Cinema

Thesis Director: Allison McCracken

Faculty Reader: Jennifer Conary

6:00-6:50

C1—ECONOMIC & GEOPOLITICAL DEBATES

Student Paper Presentations

6:00-6:50 – Room 312

Faculty Moderator: Will Denton

- Cynthia Toscano** *Free Trade Zones Between the U.S. and Latin America: The Real Story of Neoliberalism*
Instructor: Phillip Stalley
- Mallory Garrison** *Taxation and the Accumulation of Wealth in the United States*
Instructor: Rose Spalding
- Joseph Bencomo** *The Iraq War and the Middle Eastern Balance of Power*
Instructor: Will Denton
- Areej Hamdan** *The Cultural Constructions of Israel: The Tourism Industry*
Instructor: Maureen Sioh

C2—SCIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Senior Thesis Presentations

6:00-6:50 – Room 325

Faculty Moderator: Yevgenia Kashina

- Joshua Baigelman** *Intentional Communities in Missouri*
Thesis Director: James Montgomery
Faculty Reader: Nancy Grossman
- Allison Grecco** *Intraspecific Variation in Reproductive Investment of a Mast-Seeding Species*
Thesis Director: Jalene LaMontagne
Faculty Reader: Beth Lawrence
- Matthew Lithgow** *'Green' for Whom? Unpacking the Meanings and Agendas Behind Sustainable City Designs*
Thesis Director: Alec Brownlow
Faculty Reader: Shiera Malik
- Kaitlynn Tracy** *The Effect of Phosphorylation on the Interaction of GAP-43 and APP*
Thesis Director: Eric Norstrom
Faculty Reader: Jesus Pando
- Dane Hansen** *The City of Divvy: Analyzing Demographics and Ridership of Chicago's Bike-Sharing Network*
Thesis Director: David Degras
Faculty Reader: Roxanne Owens

A Message from the Director

Welcome to the second Honors Student Conference: Spotlight on Research and Creativity. Over sixty students from the DePaul University Honors Programs will present their exciting and original work at this conference. Presentations will feature innovative arguments, distinctive interpretations, and ambitious research findings developed over the course of the year. Our conference allows the presenters to share what they've learned with a broad audience of fellow students, faculty, staff, family and friends. Thank you for joining us to cheer them on!

This conference showcases the work of forty-two outstanding Honors Program seniors who have taken "the road less traveled" and opted to complete their senior capstone requirement by producing a thesis. Honors thesis projects involve independent research and writing conducted across two quarters under the close supervision of a thesis director and a faculty reader. These innovative projects have been designed by some of our most visionary and ambitious honors seniors. Thesis students draw on questions, theories, frameworks, and ideas that emanate from their course work, and then add inspiration and fresh insight to produce original projects that expand our collective horizons.

In addition, nineteen other Honors students took up the challenge of applying for admission to the conference. They submitted some of their best work to the Honors Conference Selection Committee and met the benchmark for high-quality creative and scholarly work. Their projects have been organized into a series of panels and poster sessions moderated by Honors faculty. Please join us in also celebrating their fine work.

On behalf of the students whose work is featured at this conference, I want to thank the many DePaul faculty mentors who have given generously of their time and worked closely with the presenters to develop these exciting projects. Honors Program staff members Nancy Grossman, Jennifer Kosco, and Briana Briscoe deserve a special note of thanks for carrying out all of the behind-the-scenes work required to plan and organize an event of this magnitude, and doing it with such professionalism and grace. Finally, I want to thank interim Dean Lucy Rinehart, College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, for her enthusiastic support for this initiative.

Offering my hearty congratulations to all,

Rose Spalding
Professor, Political Science
Director, University Honors Program

Honors Program: Student Conference Participants

Hanna Alshaikh, *Senior – Islamic World Studies and Arabic Studies – B3*
Kathleen Anaza, *Senior – International Studies and Arabic Studies – B4*
Amelia Augustine, *Senior – French – B4*
Joshua Baigelman, *Senior – Environmental Studies – C2*
Elena Becerril, *Junior – International Studies and Anthropology – A1*
Joseph Bencomo, *Sophomore – Arabic Studies and Political Studies – C1*
Nicole Beuerlein, *Senior – Graphic Design – A3*
Angela Bouche, *Senior – Environmental Science – B1*
Alexandria Boutros, *Freshman – Peace, Justice, & Conflict Studies – A2*
Victoria Brazen, *Senior – Economics – B4*
Alexis Bugajski, *Senior – English and Public Relations & Advertising – C4*
Philip Burns, *Sophomore – Biological Sciences – A2*
Micki Burton, *Senior – English – C4*
Larena Code, *Senior – Music Education – B2*
Emily Creek, *Senior – Anthropology – B1*
Avery Cunningham, *Senior – English – A4*
Kayla DeCant, *Senior – Psychology – A5*
Jennifer DePoorter, *Senior – English and Journalism – A4*
Carley Dubinski, *Senior – Economics – A3*
Spencer Everett, *Junior – Physics and Mathematical Sciences – B1*
Isabel Flores, *Senior – English – A4*
Alexander Forloine, *Senior – Management – A2*
Makenzi Fricker, *Senior – History of Art & Architecture and Anthropology – A5*
Kevin Fronckiel, *Senior – Finance – A3*
Mallory Garrison, *Sophomore – Public Relations & Advertising and Marketing – C1*
Allison Grecco, *Senior – Biological Sciences – C2*
Areej Hamdan, *Junior – International Studies and Economics – C1*
Dane Hansen, *Senior – Mathematical Sciences – C2*
Andrew Harding, *Senior – Mathematical Sciences and Sociology – B4*
Jordan Jedry, *Sophomore – French and English – A2*

5:00-5:50

B3—RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

Senior Thesis Presentations
5:00-5:50 – Room 380
Faculty Moderator: Yuki Miyamoto

Hanna Alshaikh *On the Erasure of Palestinian-Jewish Identity*
Thesis Director: John Karam
Faculty Reader: Khaled Keshk

Kirsten Lopez *Ele a sen d'ume: Negotiating Human-Animal Boundaries in the Lais of Marie de France*
Thesis Director: Karen Scott
Faculty Reader: Jane Baxter

Matthew Morley *Father Edward McKenna's Activism and Postconciliar Liturgical Contributions, 1958-1990*
Thesis Director: Christopher Tirres
Faculty Reader: Valentina Tikoff

Jennifer McDunn *The Meaning of Christian Hymns in Light of the Teachings of the Bible*
Thesis Director: Steve Balderston
Faculty Reader: Katherine Brucher

B4—NEGOTIATING DEVELOPMENT & COLONIALITY

Senior Thesis Presentations
5:00-5:50 – Room 324
Faculty Moderator: Gene Beiriger

Kathleen Anaza *'Knowing' Africa: Corruption, Development, and Anticolonial Thought*
Thesis Director: Shiera Malik
Faculty Reader: Clement Adibe

Amelia Augustine *Representations in Russian-Language Media in the Baltic States*
Thesis Director: Jason Schneider
Faculty Reader: Laura Urbaszewski

Victoria Brazen *Rural Poverty Reduction: Chile from 1970 to 1990*
Thesis Director: Rose Spalding
Faculty Reader: Gabriella Bucci

Andrew Harding *Advertising Organic*
Thesis Director: Deena Weinstein
Faculty Reader: Catherine May

Sean Witry *Reading the Post-Soviet Political Geography: Moving Beyond an East-West Binary*
Thesis Director: Shiera Malik
Faculty Reader: Alex Papadopoulos

5:00-5:50

B1—STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

5:00-5:50 – Room 316

Faculty Moderator: Chris Mount

- Angela Bouche** *High-Altitude Balloon Platform for Determining Regional Uptake of Carbon Dioxide over Agricultural Landscapes*
Instructor: Mark Potosnak
- Emily Creek** *Films in Malta: How an Up-and-Coming Industry is Affecting Multilayered Facets of Gozitan and Maltese Communities*
Instructor: Ginger Hofman
- Spencer Everett** *Detection of Baryonic Acoustic Oscillations in the Matter Power Spectrum*
Instructor: Jesus Pando
- Zoe Krey** *Let Them Eat Bread: Bread and Circuses as a Superficial Means of Appeasement in Ancient Rome*
Instructor: Elena Boeck
- Melanie Markay** *Gender and its Role in Race Relations*
Instructor: Laura Kina
- Courtney Schum** *Confusion and Allure: "Exotic Beauty" and Mixed Race, a Photography Subject*
Instructor: Laura Kina

B2—FINDING VOICE

Senior Thesis Presentations

5:00-5:50 – Room 325

Faculty Moderator: Gregory Hutter

- Larena Code** *Finding My Voice: A Hip-Hop Music Curriculum for Students of Diverse Backgrounds*
Thesis Director: Horace Hall
Faculty Reader: Deborah Peot
- Robert Lark** *What Have We Learned? The Future of Music Education*
Thesis Director: Erica Neidlinger
Faculty Reader: Horace Hall
- Dan Letchinger** *Compression: A Creative Understanding*
Thesis Director: Jeff Kowalkowski
Faculty Reader: Tim Cole
- Nick Meryhew** *Anarchism Unfolding: The Politics of Improvisation*
Thesis Director: Maria Acosta
Faculty Reader: Michael Lewanski

- Connor Kreger, *Senior – International Studies – C3*
- Zoe Krey, *Sophomore – Political Science and Public Relations & Advertising – B1*
- Robert Lark, *Senior – Music Education – B2*
- Seamus Leahy, *Senior – Media Cinema Studies – A4*
- Dan Letchinger, *Senior – Public Relations & Advertising – B2*
- Matthew Lithgow, *Senior – International Studies and Geography – C2*
- Kirsten Lopez, *Senior – Anthropology – B3*
- Shaza Loutfi, *Senior – Political Science and French – C3*
- Sara Mahoney, *Senior – Political Science – C3*
- Melanie Markay, *Senior – Finance – B1*
- Savana Martin, *Senior – Health Sciences – C4*
- Katherine Martin, *Senior – Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse – C4*
- Jennifer McDunn, *Senior – Music Performance and Music Education – B3*
- Joanna Mendoza, *Senior – Finance and Management – A3*
- Nick Meryhew, *Senior – Music Performance – B2*
- Yasmin Mitchel, *Freshman – Dramaturgy – A1*
- Matthew Morley, *Senior – History and English – B3*
- Kristina Pedersen, *Senior – Art, Media & Design – A5*
- Kay Peterson, *Senior – Political Science – A1*
- Lukas Shadair, *Senior – International Studies – C3*
- Courtney Schum, *Junior – Costume Design – B1*
- Samuel Schwindt, *Sophomore – Philosophy and Anthropology – A1*
- Adam Syvertsen, *Senior – English – A1*
- Kaitlynn Tracy, *Senior – Physics – C2*
- Cynthia Toscano, *Sophomore – Intercultural Communication – C1*
- Jessica Vodnik, *Senior – Communication & Media – A5*
- Randy Vollrath, *Senior – Psychology and Economics – A3*
- Matthew Von Nida, *Senior – International Studies – C3*
- Stacey Wagner, *Senior – Mathematical Sciences – A5*
- Sean Witry, *Senior – International Studies – B4*
- Madeline Woods, *Senior – Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse – C4*

Conference Schedule at a Glance

- 3:00-3:30** **Registration** – Student Center, Third Floor
- 3:40-3:50** **Welcoming Remarks** – Room 325
Rose Spalding, Director, University Honors Program
Lucy Rinehart, Interim Dean,
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences
- 4:00-7:00** **All student posters on display – Room 314**
Refreshments – Third Floor Lobby
- 4:00-4:50** **Student Paper Panels**
A1: Literary Experiences – Room 312
A2: Social Constructions – Room 313
Senior Thesis Presentations
A3: Entrepreneurial Innovation – Room 325
A4: Creativity & Imagination – Room 380
A5: Representations – Room 324
- 5:00-5:50** **Posters Presentations**
B1: Student Poster Presentations – Room 316
Senior Thesis Presentations
B2: Finding Voice – Room 325
B3: Religious Considerations – Room 380
B4: Negotiating Development & Coloniality – Room 324
- 6:00-6:50** **Student Paper Panel**
C1: Economic and Geopolitical Debates – Room 312
Senior Thesis Presentations
C2: Science & Sustainability – Room 325
C3: Globalization, Exclusion & Immigration – Room 380
C4: The Written Word – Room 324

4:00-4:50

A5—REPRESENTATIONS

Senior Thesis Presentations
4:00-4:50 – Room 324
Faculty Moderator: Laura Kina

- Makenzi Fricker** *The City Lived*
Thesis Director: Mark Pohlad
Faculty Reader: Cheryl Bachand
- Kayla DeCant** *The Language of Rape Culture*
Thesis Director: Bob Rotenberg
Faculty Reader: Monika Black
- Kristina Pedersen** *Art Is Over: A Manifesto*
Thesis Director: Zack Ostrowski
Faculty Reader: Greg Scott
- Jessica Vodnik** *The Fleece of their Flock: Homespun and the American Identity*
Thesis Director: Amy Tyson
Faculty Reader: John Burton
- Stacey Wagner** *A Colonial-Medical Continuum: Understanding the Emergence and Enforcement of the Gender Binary*
Thesis Director: Heather Rakes
Faculty Reader: Robin Mitchell

4:00-4:50

A3—ENTREPRENEURIAL INNOVATION

Senior Thesis Presentations

4:00-4:50 – Room 325

Faculty Moderator: Peter Hastings

- Carley Dubinski** *How the Digital Market is Changing Anti-Trust*
Thesis Director: Gabriella Bucci
Faculty Reader: Gil Gott
- Kevin Fronckiel** *Innovation Among Creative Business Enterprises*
Thesis Director: Terri Lonier
Faculty Reader: Mary Vermillion
- Nicole Beuerlein** *Creating Clarity: Safer Edible Product Packaging Initiative*
Thesis Director: Dolores Wilber
Faculty Reader: Amy Schwartz
- Joanna Mendoza** *Intrinsic Value of Socially Responsible Investing*
Thesis Director: Ali Fatemi
Faculty Reader: Sanjay Deshmukh
- Randy Vollrath** *A Retrospective Analysis of a Short-Term Social T-Shirt Venture*
Thesis Director: Patrick Murphy
Faculty Reader: Terri Lonier

A4—CREATIVITY & IMAGINATION

Senior Thesis Presentations

4:00-4:50 – Room 380

Faculty Moderator: Bob Rotenberg

- Avery Cunningham** *Titans and Men: A Novel*
Thesis Director: Rebecca Johns-Trissler
Faculty Reader: Megan Heffernan
- Jennifer DePoorter** *The Boy on my Bus: A Novella*
Thesis Director: Nancy Grossman
Faculty Reader: Kathryn Grant
- Isabel Flores** *Fishing For Monsters: A Novella*
Thesis Director: David Welch
Faculty Reader: Richard Jones
- Seamus Leahy** *Dal Segno (From the Sign On)*
Thesis Director: Robert Steel
Faculty Reader: Timothy Peternel

Schedule of Conference Sessions

4:00-4:50

A1—LITERARY EXPERIENCES

Student Paper Presentations

4:00-4:50 – Room 312

Faculty Moderator: Helen Marlborough

- Samuel Schwindt** *Gay Harlem: The Homosexual Subculture of the Harlem Renaissance*
Instructor: Leah Lopez
- Adam Syvertsen** *The European American: Hawthorne and the Early Nineteenth Century American Identity*
Instructor: Marcy Dinius
- Kay Peterson** *Representations of Interracial Marriage Through Film: Exploring "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "Our Family Wedding"*
Instructor: Laura Kina
- Yasmin Mitchel** *Thomas Kyd: "The Spanish Tragedy" – The First of its Kind*
Instructor: William O'Connor
- Elena Becerril** *James Luna: The Romantization of the American Indian*
Instructor: Laura Kina

A2—SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS: MORALITY, LEGALITY, & MORTALITY

Student Paper Presentations

4:00-4:50 – Room 313

Faculty Moderator: Michael Raleigh

- Alexandria Boutros** *Still Separated and Still Not Equal: The Effects of Early Education on the School to Prison Pipeline*
Instructor: Michael Raleigh
- Philip Burns** *Marijuana Criminalization: Moral Imperative or Monetary Woe?*
Instructor: Martha Martinez
- Alexander Forloine** *The Preservation of Memory: From Memorials to Memoirs – The Different Ways in Which Memories Are Kept Alive*
Instructor: Gene Beiriger
- Jordan Jedry** *Funerary Practices in Pagan Rome*
Instructor: Elena Boeck