



MEDALS CEREMONY

HONORS PROGRAM



Saturday, May 4, 2019

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts

Ceremony

Welcome

Jennifer Lease Butts, *Assistant Vice Provost,
Honors and Enrichment Programs & Director, Honors Program*

Remarks

Susan Herbst, *President*

Scholar Address

Akshayaa K. Chittibabu '19, *Honors Scholar*

Honors Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipient

Jennifer Sterling-Folker, *Professor, Political Science*

Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient

Alan R. Bennett, 1969 CLAS

Dr. Lynne Goodstein and Dr. Peter Langer Award Recipient

Kaitlin Heenehan, *Honors STEM Scholar Advisor*

Presentation of Medals to Honors Scholars

Nomenclator

Jaclyn Chancey, *Honors Assistant Director for Curriculum, Assessment, and Planning*

Presentation of Medals and Gifts to University Scholars

Nomenclator

Caroline McGuire, *Director, Office of Undergraduate Research*

Assisted by

Anne D'Alleva, *Dean, School of Fine Arts*

Indrajeet Chaubey, *Dean, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources*

James Halpert, *Dean, School of Pharmacy*

Andrew Moiseff, *Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

Daniel Burkey, *Associate Dean, School of Engineering*

Monica van Beusekom, *Director, Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program*

Concluding Remarks

Jennifer Lease Butts, *Assistant Vice Provost,
Honors and Enrichment Programs & Director, Honors Program*

The duties of Marshal were performed today by

Jaclyn Chancey, *Assistant Director for Curriculum, Assessment, and Planning, Honors Program*

Patricia Szarek, *Associate Director for Enrollment Management, Honors Program*

The Honors Medals Ceremony is the culmination of a student’s time in the UConn Honors Program. This annual event began in 2004 as a way to celebrate those students who have completed the rigorous Honors curriculum and are graduating as Honors Scholars or University Scholars. Founded in 1964, the Honors Program offers intellectually gifted and highly motivated undergraduate students the opportunity to obtain the richest possible collegiate experience. Working with every school and college, the Honors Program promotes challenging coursework and encourages intellectual independence through research and creative activities. Students form personal relationships with faculty and staff through Honors classes, regular contact with advisors, and the close supervision that comes with conducting the Honors thesis. Students make life-long friends and enhance their talents by living in Honors residential communities, attending Honors events, and joining Honors student organizations. Honors students also contribute significantly to the greater campus culture of UConn through their academic engagement, leadership, and involvement.

Today we mark the end of our students’ undergraduate careers and the beginning of their next stage in life. They have spent their time in Honors knowing they were part of a community: living, learning, and building relationships they will take with them for decades to come. Yet their successes were not accomplished alone. Much of their development depended upon a wider support system. The Honors faculty and advisors work closely with our students to guide their studies and broaden their minds. The parents and family stand beside their scholars, offering any assistance required for their students to blossom into adults. And the Honors alumni and donors lend helping hands to move our students forward, giving of their time, their wisdom, and their own success to aid our students’ journeys. With joy, pride, and gratitude, we gather in celebration today as an Honors community to pay tribute to our graduating scholars.

Honors Scholars

These students have completed a rigorous academic program that culminated in the production of an Honors thesis or creative project. The requirements for graduating as an Honors Scholar include a minimum of fifteen Honors credits including twelve in the major (or approved related areas) and earning a total grade point average of at least 3.4. Following is a list of graduating Honors Scholars, their majors, their thesis titles, and the faculty advisors for their theses.

CHARLES CODY ZABIN ABRAMS
Individualized: Exercise Physiology & Health

Resistance Training & Health Outcomes in Older Adults

Advised by: Craig Denegar

TYLER WILLIAM ACKLEY
Doctor of Pharmacy

Soluble Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Isoforms: Functional Roles and Potential Therapeutic Application in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Advised by: Caroline Dealy

MARYZYRENE ADAO
Computer Science & Engineering
Discussion and Analysis of The IP vs. PSPACE Problem

Advised by: Alexander Russell

MISHAAL AFTEB
Political Science
Decentralization and the Provision of Public Services: A Case Study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Advised by: Elizabeth Hanson

BRIAN AGUILERA
Molecular & Cell Biology
Role of CD13 In Focal Adhesion Turnover and Its Significance in the Formation and Function of Tunneling Nanotubes

Advised by: Mallika Ghosh

PIERRE-ALEXANDRE AGUIRRE
Political Science
Cooperation or Conflict: Using Alliance Theory to Explain the Current Gulf Cooperation Council Crisis

Advised by: Evan Perkoski

NABIHAH AHMED
Accounting
Understanding Advantages and Disadvantages of Outsourcing in Large Supply Chains

Advised by: Mohamed Hussein

BIJAN AIME
Exercise Science
The Relationship Between Cervical Spine Rotation, Neck Posture, and their relationship to Shoulder Injury in Swimmers.

Advised by: Craig Denegar

FAJAR ALAM
Molecular & Cell Biology
Is the Green Revolution Making Farmers Sick?: Agricultural Transformation and Chronic Kidney Disease of Unknown etiology in Sri Lanka

Advised by: Stephen Schensul

SARAH AL-ARSHANI
Journalism
An in-depth look on sex-trafficking in Connecticut

Advised by: Maureen Croteau

GRACE AGATHA ALEXANDER
Finance
An Exploration of the Financial Impact of Obesity: An Individual and Nation-Wide Perspective

Advised by: William Pace

MARYYAM ALI
Molecular & Cell Biology
Risk Factors and Exposure to Violence in Pediatric Emergency Department Patients

Advised by: Victoria Robinson

KATHRYN ANN ALLEN
Cognitive Science
Relationships Between Auditory Brainstem Response and Narrative Language in Typically Developing Kids Children and Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Advised by: Letitia Naigles

MELISSA ANNE ALLEN
Accounting
Assessing the Implementation and Effectiveness of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives in Public Accounting Firms

Advised by: David Papandria

ALESSANDRA MARIE ALLING
Natural Resources
Understanding Factors Affecting Partner Participation and Experience in a Collaborative Conservation Project

Advised by: Anita Morzillo

ROSELLA SARAH ALUIA
Individualized: Crime, Law & Justice
Immigration in the Media

Advised by: Charles Venator

CAROLINE MARIE ANASTASIA
Chemistry
Microplastics: What Are They and What Are Their Potential Impacts on Long Island Sound?

Advised by: James Stuart

MARIA ANTONY
Allied Health Sciences
Low-Income Family Feedback on Resilience-Promoting Services

Advised by: Valerie Duffy

MARIA ANTONY
Molecular & Cell Biology
Role of Exogenous miRNA-181c-5p on Stroke Recovery in Social Isolation

Advised by: Johann Gogarten

ANNA MICHELLE ARDIZZONI
Physiology & Neurobiology
Cortical Pathway Specialization for Perception of Timing Cues and Sound Sequences

Advised by: Heather Read

ABISHEK AROKIADOSS
Physiology & Neurobiology
Studying the Various Carbon Sources Utilized by the Bacterial Consortium of the Hawaiian Bobtail Squid

Advised by: Spencer Nyholm

SOKAINA ASAR
Individualized: Neuroscience
The role of Interleukin 1-beta in motivation and effort-related behaviors in a rat model: reversal by an atypical dopamine transport inhibitor

Advised by: John Salamone

KATHERINE ATAMANUK
Biomedical Engineering
Atomic Force Microscopy to Identify Hydration Temperatures for Small Volumes of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

Advised by: Bryan Huey

MAIGH SINGH ATTRE
Biomedical Engineering
Seeing Eye to Eye: A Machine Learning Approach to Automated Saccade Analysis

Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

FREDERICK VAN AUGUR
Political Science
Six Years to Life: The Impact of Term Length on Judicial Independence

Advised by: Virginia Hettinger

BENJAMIN FILIERE BABBITT
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Role of Gut Bacteria in Parkinson's Disease: Then, Now, and Future

Advised by: Randall Walikonis

DAVID ANTHONY BACHOY
Psychological Sciences
Can Anodal tDCS Over Prefrontal Cortex Improve Cognitive Control?

Advised by: Eiling Yee

GABRIELLA BAFFONI
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Immediate Blood Pressure Response to Acute Concurrent Exercise: A Meta-Analysis

Advised by: Linda Pescatello

LYDIA BAILEY
English
Powerless Princesses and Damsels in Distress: How Disney Movies Killed Feminism in Fairy Tales

Advised by: Anna Mae Duane

JESSICA BARBER
Psychological Sciences
Asian American Inclusion in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) Randomized Control Trials (RCTs)

Advised by: Monnica Williams

DANIEL ROBERT BARRACK
Molecular & Cell Biology

SAYAN BASU
Biomedical Engineering
Use of Polymeric Bicelles as a Platform for Biomedical Imaging and Drug Delivery

Advised by: Mu-Ping Nieh

KEVIN ALLEN BATES
Molecular & Cell Biology
Montreal Cognitive Assessment Distribution of Scores Across a Pediatric Population

Advised by: Joerg Graf

ANNA HELENA BAXTER
Nursing
Caring for the Family of the Neonate: A Descriptive Analysis of Nurse Beliefs

Advised by: Deborah McDonald

MADELINE BECKMAN
Allied Health Sciences
Level of Acculturation and Hispanic Children's Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: A Study to Understand and Help Prevent Childhood Obesity

Advised by: Jennifer Harris

KATHERINE E BELL
Environmental Sciences
De-icing Salt-Induced Cation Exchange in Upland, Forest, and Wetland Soils

Advised by: Ashley Helton

ERIC JOHN BELTRAMI
Physiology & Neurobiology
Understanding the Function of Inhibitory Lateral Hypothalamic Neurons and their Contribution to Generating Complex Behavioral States

Advised by: Alexander Jackson

KERRI LYNNE BERGERON
Biological Sciences
Public Perception of the Legalities of Genetic Information Usage

Advised by: Rachel O'Neill

KENNETH EDWARD BERKERY
Biomedical Engineering
Design of a Biocompatible and Biodegradable End to End Anastomosis Staple-Line Wound Protector

Advised by: Bin Feng

SARINA BHARGAVA
Finance
A Comprehensive Comparison: Mergers in India and the US

Advised by: Liping Qiu

ROBERT WILLIAM BICKLEY
Mechanical Engineering
Optimizing the Tuning Process for Radio Frequency Filters

Advised by: Bryan Weber

PARAM HARESH BIDJA
Computer Science & Engineering
Graph Deep Learning of Heterogenous Data for Enhanced Depression Prediction

Advised by: Jinbo Bi

LUCAS QUINN BLADEN
Political Science
Explorations in Judicial Decision-Making and International Relations

Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

EMILY ROSE BLANCHARD
History/Social Studies Education
Strategies for Teaching Mathematical Vocabulary Within the Project SPARK Curriculum

Advised by: Catherine Little

AMANDA LEE BLAZKA
Human Development & Family Studies
To Cohabit, or Not to Cohabit: Do Selection Factors Affect the Latter Success or Dissolution of Marriage?

Advised by: Caitlin Lombardi

JENNY CLAIRE BLESSING
Computer Science
Security Analysis of an Audit Station Web API

Advised by: Laurent Michel

ADAM JEROME BOISLARD
Mechanical Engineering
Optimization of Various Characteristics of a Geared Turbofan Engine

Advised by: Baki Cetegen

DAE-ZHANÉ DAMARA BOLAND
Urban & Community Studies
Secondary Data Analysis of Black Men, Social Support and Self-Rated Mental Health Status

Advised by: Wizdom Powell

HANNAH KATHERINE BONITZ
Management Information Systems
Leveraging Technology and Analytics to Combat Modern Slavery

Advised by: Jonathan Moore

SARTHAK BOTHRA
Biological Sciences
Mental Screening Tool for Mental Health Patients Upon ED Triage

Advised by: Eric Schultz

MARYANNE BOWMAN
Human Development & Family Studies
In the Best Interests of the Child: A 50-State Comparison of Statutes

Advised by: Preston Britner

AMANDA JEAN BOYLE
Biological Sciences
Steroid Induced Necrosis of the Femoral Head: A Review

Advised by: Kristen Govoni

SULEYMAN BERKER BOZAL
Structural Biology/Biophysics
A Robust Delivery System for siRNA Therapeutics and the CRISPR/Cas9 System in Gene Regulation and Editing

Advised by: Diane Burgess

THOMAS L BRAYTON
English
The Huguenot Voice in Anglo-Irish Literature

Advised by: Mary Burke

ASA ROBERT BRIGANDI
Economics
Transportation Infrastructure and Economic Growth in Landlocked Developing Nations

Advised by: Jorge Aguero

FARRELL RAE BROWN
Biomedical Engineering
Increasing the Recording Capability of a Bidirectional Telemetry Controlled Neuroprosthetic Device
Advised by: Martin Han

KENNETH ALMOND BROWN
Mechanical Engineering
The Effect of Constraints in Finite Element Analysis
Advised by: Vito Moreno

TARIF WILLARD BROWN
History
The Socio-political Significance of Former Chinese Chairman Jiang Zimen's Three Represents Policy
Advised by: Peter Zarrow

TARIF WILLARD BROWN
Anthropology
Cambodia's Joint International Tribunal Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)
Advised by: Richard Wilson

TIMOTHY CHEN BROWN
Economics
Change of Measure and Applications in Finance
Advised by: Chih-hwa Kao

ERIN DIANA BROWNELL
Applied Mathematical Sciences
Combinatorial Optimization: Introductory Problems and Methods
Advised by: Myron Minn Thu Aye

MARGARET ELIZABETH BURKE
Psychological Sciences
Learned Helplessness and The Use of tDCS in ACLR Patients
Advised by: Lindsey Lepley

CHRISTIAN PETER BURR
Polittical Science
Analysis in Selected Readings of International Relations and the Impact of American Foreign Relations on Political Behavior
Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

MATTHEW BYANYIMA
Political Science
A Petro-State in Crisis: Democratization, and Energy Security in Nigeria
Advised by: Oksan Bayulgen

ALEXANDRA CATHERINE CABRA
Animal Science
The Effects of Increased Maternal Milk Production on Calf Growth and Health
Advised by: Kristen Govoni

AMANDA VICTORIA CABRAL
Journalism
Late Night Comedy: The Newest Form of Journalism?
Advised by: Maureen Croteau

DANIELLE MARIE CAEFER
Biomedical Engineering
Determining Specificity Motifs of Mammalian Sterile-20 like Kinase 3 and Epstein-Barr Virus BGLF4 Kinase using the ProPeL Methodology
Advised by: Daniel Schwartz

CELINA MARIE LOPES CAETANO
Molecular & Cell Biology
The Role of pxt in Drosophila melanogaster During Late Oogenesis and Osmotic Regulation of Stage 14 Follicle Cells
Advised by: Johann Gogarten

CELINA MARIE LOPES CAETANO
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Role of pxt in Drosophila melanogaster During Late Oogenesis and Osmotic Regulation of Stage 14 Follicle Cells
Advised by: Johann Gogarten

TAYLOR A CALDWELL
English
Colorism, Fiction, and Human Rights
Advised by: Jerry Phillips

HALEY CALLAHAN
Economics
Evaluating Welfare Policy in Single-Parent Family Households
Advised by: David Simon

PATRICK S CANTWELL
Molecular & Cell Biology
PAM is Selectively Packaged onto Exosomes Derived from Neuroendocrine Cells
Advised by: Vishwanatha Rao

SAMANTHA ELLEN CARD
General Program in Music
Pre-service Music Educators' Preferences and Perceptions of Teaching Musical Content Areas in K-12 Music Education
Advised by: Cara Bernard

KRISTEN TAYLOR CARDASCIA
Human Development & Family Studies
Associations between Low Birthweight and Cognitive Development in Early Childhood
Advised by: Caitlin Lombardi

CARLI ANN CEKANOWICZ
Exercise Science
Abdominal Muscle Stability Following Hyperthermic Exercise and Non-Exercise Induced Hypohydration
Advised by: Douglas Casa

LAUREN MICHELE CENCI
English
Wordsworth's Elegiac Mode
Advised by: Charles Mahoney

JONAH ARTHUR CERBIN
Physics
Manipulating the Superconducting Phase in Strontium Titanate
Advised by: Ilya Sochnikov

SHAYLIN ASHLEY CETEGEN
Chemical Engineering
Optimizing Food Growing and Production Scheduling for Robustness to Markets
Advised by: Matthew Stuber

LEENA CHACRONE
Mechanical Engineering

KAYLA MARIE CHALMERS
Management Information Systems
Improving the Security of Home IoT Devices
Advised by: Jonathan Moore

NUMAD MAQSOOD CHEEMA
Mechanical Engineering
The Effect of the Internet of Things in Mechanical Devices
Advised by: Xu Chen

DAMINI CHELLADURAI
Biomedical Engineering
Breastfeeding Diagnostic Application for Patients and Doctors
Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

SEAN CHILSON
Political Science
Writings on Foreign Policy and American Political Behavior
Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

AKSHAYAA KETHINNI CHITTIBABU
Individualized: Health, Policy & Social Medicine
From Stem to St(Earn): How Should Public Funds Be Used When Funding Private Sector Development of Stem Cell Therapies? An Exploration of California's Model.
Advised by: Audrey Chapman

AKHIL SATYA CHOUDHARY
Anthropology
In The Eye of the Storm: An Anthropological Perspective of Risk and Preparedness in Connecticut
Advised by: Eleanor Ouimet

EMILY LI MIN CHU
Allied Health Sciences
Parents of Student-Athletes: Perceptions and Knowledge of the Athletic Training Profession
Advised by: Douglas Casa

BRYCE VINCENT CICCAGLIONE
Individualized: Global Finance & Political Economy
Utilizing Blockchain Trade Finance to Promote Financial Inclusion
Advised by: Stanley McMillen

JOHN THOMAS CIURYLO
Political Science
Sorting Out Our Differences: The Psychology behind Partisan Polarization
Advised by: Ronald Schurin

MEGAN LYNN CIVITELLO
Biological Sciences
Activation of the Bile Acid Pathway and a Lack of Antimicrobial Peptides in the Skin of a Poison Frog
Advised by: John Malone

JOHN MICHAEL CIZESKI
Economics
Just a Bit More and We're Good: Anchoring and Reciprocity in a Multi-Stage Bargaining Experiment
Advised by: Mikhael Shor

MICHAEL ANTHONY COCCHIOLA III
Political Science
Ideological Inquiry: An Analysis of the Questions Nominees Face in Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings
Advised by: Virginia Hettinger

CAITLYN ROSE CODY
Psychological Sciences
Perception of Sound Onset Cues in Naturalistic Sound Sequences
Advised by: Heather Read

KALEA COLES
Human Development & Family Studies
Child Birth Weight and Reading Skills: A Moderation by Race
Advised by: Annamaria Csizmadia

JACKSON MARTIN COLLINS
Accounting
Accounting in Emerging Markets: Exploring the Implementation of IFRS in Africa.
Advised by: Arthur Schmeiser

NICOLE ANN COSGROVE
Chemical Engineering
Lenalidomide Detection Using Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy
Advised by: Yu Lei

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER COSTELLO
Biomedical Engineering
Multiple Object Detection for Acoustic Mediated Wearable Navigation Device
Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

SAMANTHA MARIE CRONIN
Elementary Education
Teacher Perceptions of Inclusive Pedagogies
Advised by: Catherine Little

OLIVIA CHRISTINE CROSBY
General Program in Art
Making Welcome: Space, Material, and Human Design
Advised by: Ray Dicapua

JULIA ELIZABETH CROWE
Communication
Social Media Influencers and Instagram Marketing: Their Impacts and Implications on Consumer Purchase Decisions
Advised by: Carolyn Lin

DAVID JOSEPH CSORDAS
Pathobiology
Lost in Translation? The Effect of a Non-invasive ACL Injury on Muscle Activation
Advised by: Lindsey Lepley

SAM EDWARD CUTLER
Physics
Examining High Redshift Rotation Curves and Dark Matter Profiles Outside the Local Universe
Advised by: Katherine Tease

SIOBHAN ELIZABETH DALE
English
Snuff
Advised by: Sean Forbes

GARRETT ARTHUR D'AMATO
Political Science
Islands in Limbo: An Argument to Anchor the Citizenship of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the Fourteenth Amendment
Advised by: Charles Venator

VICTORIA ROSE DAMORE
English
Literary Representations of Slavery Around the Time of Abolition in England and America
Advised by: Dwight Codr

LISA DARMINOVA
Applied Mathematical Sciences
Mathematical modeling of the neural cell kinetics
Advised by: Vasili Kharchenko

LAURA DAVID
Sociology
Identifying The Allostatic Load of Displaced Puerto Ricans in The Greater Hartford Area, a Year After Hurricane Maria
Advised by: Charles Venator

GREGORY SCOTT DAVIS
Nutritional Sciences
Total Polyphenolic and Flavonoid contents in Capsule Coffee Extracts and Their Contribution to Total Antioxidant Capacity
Advised by: Ock K. Chun

THOMAS DAVIS
Molecular & Cell Biology
Implications of BRCA1 and BRCA2 Mutations on Tumor-Immune Interaction in Breast and Ovarian Cancer
Advised by: Johann Gogarten

MAIREAD ROSE DEACY
Psychological Sciences
Relationship Between Personality, Coping and Medication Adherence Among Female College Students
Advised by: Dean Cruess

CLEMENTINA ROSE DELUCIA
Psychological Sciences
The Influence of Culture on Anxiety
Advised by: Kimberli Treadwell

REBECCA MICHELLE DEMAIO
Marketing
Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension
Advised by: Heidi Bailey

MATTHEW CARL DENEFF
Doctor of Pharmacy
A Novel Approach to Pharmacy Practice Law Instruction
Advised by: Lisa Holle

JEFFREY ALAN DEPINTO JR.
Biomedical Engineering
Development of SPINE Mobile Application to Improve Lower Back Pain Self-Management with a Focus in Gaming Application
Advised by: Guoan Zheng

AMEELAXMI MUNISH DESAI
Allied Health Sciences
Associations between Metabolic Syndrome and Depression
Advised by: Bruce Blanchard

JENNA RACHEL DICKINSON
Finance
Studying the Effects of the Yield Curve on National Commercial Bank Profitability in the United States as Evidenced by Stock Prices
Advised by: Paul Gilson

OLIVIA DIMARCO
Psychological Sciences
Drug Effects on Voluntary Physical Activity: Development of a Novel Animal Model of Depression
Advised by: John Salamone

TANYA DIMITROV
Biomedical Engineering
Analysis of Reproducibility of Noninvasive Measures of Sympathetic Autonomic Control based on Electrodermal Activity and Heart Rate Variability
Advised by: Ki Chon

ARIANNA SHIFRA DINES
Economics
Two Wheels or Four: The Effect of Proximity to Bicycle Trails and Highways on Housing Prices in the Boston Area
Advised by: Metin Cosgel

BRETT M DOBINSKI
Mathematics/Actuarial Science
The Potential for Property Microinsurance in Puerto Rico
Advised by: Thomas Whitcomb

JEREMY MICHAEL DOUCETTE
Biological Sciences
Microbe-microbe Interactions in the Fruit Fly Gut: A Close Look at Escherichia coli Nissle, Lactobacillus plantarum, and Acetobacter pasteurianus
Advised by: Nichole Broderick

PATRYCJA DROZDZ
Business Administration
Social Media Privacy-An Examination of Consumer Preferences
Advised by: William Ryan

ERIC D’SOUZA
Biomedical Engineering
Multidirectional Failure Analysis of an Anastomosis Site Staple Line from an EEA Stapler Wound Protector
Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

MITCHELL THOMAS DUBUC
Biomedical Engineering
Significance of the Relationship Between Propulsion Technique and Wrist Health in Manual Wheelchair Users
Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

LESLIE DUNN
Individualized: Health & Wellness
Exercise Recommendations for Pregnant Women
Advised by: Linda Pescatello

ROBERT ANTHONY EAGAN
Political Science
Reflections on Community Policing and Professional Development
Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

TAYLOR ROSE EDGAR
Biological Sciences
Influence of Neural and Behavioral Mechanisms of Timbre in the Categorization of Sound Stimuli
Advised by: Heather Read

MATTHEW DILLON EDSON
Mathematics/Actuarial Science/Finance
The Future of the Auto Insurance Market and Autonomous Vehicles
Advised by: James Trimble

RIK STEPHEN EMERY
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Localization of RFD2 in Human iPSC-derived Neurons and in Mouse Brains
Advised by: Xinming Ma

LAUREN NICOLE ENGELS
Animal Science
The Effects of Poor Maternal Nutrition on Fetal Brain Development
Advised by: Kristen Govoni

DANIEL EPSTEIN
Psychological Sciences
The Influence of Parental Expectations on Future Substance Abuse in Boys
Advised by: Jeffrey Burke

BRIGHT EZE
Nursing
Pain in African American Young Adults and Their Pain Reduction Strategies
Advised by: Deborah McDonald

GABRIELLE A FARB
Biological Sciences
An Investigation of Biology Student Attitudes Towards Learning Mathematics in Biology Courses
Advised by: Kinnian Chen

MADELINE CATHARINE FARRELL
Individualized: Genetics & Psychological Development
Does spinal cord injury increase gene expression for pain relevant markers in visceral organs?
Advised by: Erin Young

SARAH MARIE FERRIGNO
Psychological Sciences
Investigating the Role of the 5-HT1B Receptor Regarding Motivational Symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder
Advised by: John Salamone

DEVIN ALEXANDER FINNERTY
Biomedical Engineering
An In-depth Finite Element Analysis and Study of Common Forces on the Human Clavicle
Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

CLAYTON NEIL FIRMENDER
Marketing
Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension
Advised by: Heidi Bailey

LUKE ALAN FISHER
Marine Sciences
Extrinsic and intrinsic alkalinity factors influencing microbial calcium carbonate precipitation: Seasonal study of exopolymeric substance and growth of microbial-ites in Green Lakes, New York.
Advised by: Pieter Visscher

ERIKA GRETEL FLEMING
Nutritional Sciences
Preparation and Characterization of Biocompatible Polymeric Nanoparticles with Exceptional Gastrointestinal Stability
Advised by: Yangchao Luo

KAITLYN ELIZABETH FLINT
Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
The Relationship Between the Language Difficult of Driving Manuals and the Failure Rates on the Learner’s Permit Knowledge Test
Advised by: Tammie Spaulding

KATHERINE LAURIE FOLKER
Puppetry
The Monster and the Mob: Exploring Otherness through the Art of Horror
Advised by: John Bell

JAMES CAMERON FRAGEAU
Physiology & Neurobiology
Dietary Effects on Metabolism in TBI-induced Drosophila
Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

ANGELINA GADZIALA
History
Manipulated Power: Changed Aspects of Legal History Hidden Within The Nixon Watergate Scandal
Advised by: Peter Baldwin

NICOLE EMMA GAGNON
History
Defective, Delinquent, and Forcibly Sterilized: Eugenic Criminology in United States Law
Advised by: Melanie Newport

JASON RONALD GALLO
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Effects of Lipopolysaccharide-Induced Inflammation on Effort-Related Choice Behavior
Advised by: John Salamone

SAMUEL I GANEM
Biomedical Engineering

HANNAH LAUREN GARDOCKI
Doctor of Pharmacy
Evaluation of Current Diagnostic Markers for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
Advised by: Jose Manautou

NATHAN GENEST
History
Establishing a Link between Sports and Sovereignty and the Application of Sports Diplomacy.
Advised by: Alexis Dudden

JAMIE KATHERINE GEORGELOS
Molecular & Cell Biology
The Role of Probiotic Lactic Acid Bacteria in Treating Clostridium difficile Infections
Advised by: Kumar Venkitanarayanan

NICOLE AVERY GERARDIN
English Education
An Interdisciplinary Education: Just A Bridge Away
Advised by: Hannah Dostal

Daniel Gewirtz
Chemistry
Development of Methodologies for Copper Catalyzed Homo- and Hetero-coupling Reactions Involving Sulfur
Advised by: Nicholas Leadbeater

BRIDGET MARIE GILES
Finance
Amazon’s Effect on Market Competition
Advised by: Paul Gilson

ANDREW JOSEPH GOLDFEDER
Economics
Predicting the Economic Impact of Trump Tariffs Based on Historical Trends
Advised by: Derek Johnson

BRIAN AARON GOLDSTEIN
Chemical Engineering
Liquid Phase Hydrodeoxygenation of Benzofuran
Advised by: Ioulia Valla

CHRISTINE MARIE GOSS
General Program in Music

KATHERINE ROSE GOSSELIN
Civil Engineering
Adoption of Ridesourcing Services among Students at a Rural University
Advised by: Norman Garrick

RYAN ALEXANDER GOSSELIN
Mathematics/Actuarial Science/Finance
Too Big to Fail?: Analyzing the Economic Consequences and Ethics of US Government Bailouts
Advised by: Edward Perry

KATHRINE MARY GRANT
English Education
Investigating the Influence of Peer Relationships, Support, and Interactions in Learning English as an Additional Language
Advised by: Elizabeth Howard

KAYLEIGH ERIN GRANVILLE
Environmental Sciences
Seasonal Patterns in Denitrification and Nitrous Oxide Production in Salt Marshes
Advised by: Ashley Helton

JUSTIN ROBERT GREENWOOD
Materials Science & Engineering
The Effects of Cryogenic Treatment on the Mechanical and Structural Properties of Ti-6Al-4V
Advised by: Seok Woo Lee

PRISCILLA GRILLAKIS
Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
The Applications of Group Interactions on Bilingual Language Learning
Advised by: Adrian Garcia-Sierra

TAYLORE ELIZABETH GRUNERT
English
Metatextual Evolution: The Troping of Evolution in Literature and Film
Advised by: Gregory Semenza

PATRICK WILLIAM GUERRETTE
Electrical Engineering
Undersea Precision Navigation and Timing
Advised by: Krishna Pattipati

GRACE LILY GUERTIN
Management
Establishing an Annual Fund and Building Partnerships for Girls On The Run
Advised by: Lucy Gilson

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Structural Plasticity of Inhibitory Neurons in the Amygdala with Safety Conditioning
Advised by: Linnaea Ostroff

ANDY GUO
Computer Science & Engineering
Lattice Cryptography and Its Applications
Advised by: Benjamin Fuller

YANNIS KOSTAS HALKIADAKIS
Biomedical Engineering
Data Visualization Integrated with Wearable Technology to Identify Alternate Motor Control Strategies
Advised by: Kristin Morgan

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Physics
A Catalog of Clouds in the Galactic Center with High Velocity Extent
Advised by: Cara Battersby

TYLER R. HANNA
Physiology & Neurobiology
Differential Iron Regulatory Genetics in 2D & 3D Culture of Breast Cancer Cells
Advised by: Susan Buraceski

TYLER R. HANNA
Molecular & Cell Biology
Differential Iron Regulatory Genetics in 2D & 3D Culture of Breast Cancer Cells
Advised by: Charles Giardina

ZAINEB HAROON
Management Information Systems
Title: Healthy Huskies: Innovating Health and Wellness at UConn
Advised by: Jonathan Moore

GERARD THOMAS HARTMANN JR.
Health Care Management
Developments in Healthcare Data Usage: Finding a Balance Between Privacy and Efficiency
Advised by: Shun-Yang Lee

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Individualized: Community Health
Analyzing the Impact of Behavioral Modifications in Delaying the Progression of Chronic Kidney of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) Amongst Rural Laborers in Sri Lanka: A Multidisciplinary Approach
Advised by: Stephen Schensul

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Analyzing the Impact of Behavioral Modifications in Delaying the Progression of Chronic Kidney of Unknown Etiology (CKDu) Amongst Rural Laborers in Sri Lanka: A Multidisciplinary Approach
Advised by: Stephen Schensul

SHREYA SHAILESH HEGDE
Biomedical Engineering
Analysis of Pelvis Anthropometry and Birthing Types
Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

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Computer Engineering
Autonomous Firefighting Drone
Advised by: Krishna Pattipati

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Biomedical Engineering
Wearable Sensor and Dashboard System for Detecting and Displaying Hospital Events
Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

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Digital Media & Design
Bifurcate: An Animated Short Film
Advised by: Daniel Pejril

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Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Conservation and Habitat Restoration of the Globally Imperiled Northern Metalmark Butterfly (Calephelis borealis) (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae)
Advised by: David Wagner

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Economics
Model of Immigration Effects on Employment
Advised by: Olivier Morand

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Marine Sciences
Investigating Trends of Dissolved Gases and Alkalinity in Long Island Sound
Advised by: Epapante Vlahos

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Individualized: Law, Science & Technology
Spit Take: The Surprisingly Unregulated Realm of Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing and Proposed Policy Solutions
Advised by: Molly Land

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Mechanical Engineering
Analysis of Bearing Operation and Design Optimization for a Colonial Bronze No.6 Pivot Hinge
Advised by: Vito Moreno

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Biomedical Engineering
Deferoxamine Conjugated Angiogenic Injectable Hydrogels for Regenerative Engineering
Advised by: Lakshmi Nair

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Political Science
Inquiries Into Public Political Perception
Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

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Allied Health Sciences
Optimal gestational weight gain in twin pregnancies for women who were normal weight, overweight, and obese pre-pregnancy
Advised by: Molly Waring

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Elementary Education
It's Hard to do Everything: Keeping Beginning Teachers of Color in the Profession
Advised by: Dorothea Anagnostopoulo

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Political Science
American Voting Behavior in Swing States During Presidential Elections
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Management
Non-Profit Board Members: The Motivation Gap and the Impacts It Has on the Company
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Management Information Systems
Healthy Huskies: Providing a Platform for Students to Improve Overall Mental, Emotional and Physical Well-Being
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Stem Cell Spheroids for Cartilage Regeneration
Advised by: Mary Bruno

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Psychological Sciences
Understanding the Relationship between Yoga Practice and Wellbeing
Advised by: Crystal Park

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Civil Engineering
Fragility Assessment and Grid Hardening Prioritization of Power Distribution System
Advised by: Wei Zhang

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Cognitive Science
Neural Determinants of Phonetic Category Structure in Children Rome Ciampino
Advised by: Rachel Theodore

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Psychological Sciences
Expression and Communication of Emotion in Schizophrenia Patients: Illusory Impairments and Real Experience
Advised by: Ross Buck

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Animal Science
The Effects of Poor Maternal Nutrition on Oxidative Stress in Offspring Muscle
Advised by: Sarah Reed

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Nutritional Sciences
The Stabilization and Complexation of Curcumin with Phytoglycogen Nanoparticles
Advised by: Yangchao Luo

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Political Science
The Opiod Epidemic in a Black and White World: Racial Bias and Medical Negligence
Advised by: Cesar Abadia-Barrero

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Mechanical Engineering
Internet of Things Integration in Mechanical Systems
Advised by: Xu Chen

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Natural Resources
*Deicing Salts Influence Ranavirus Outbreaks in Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) Tadpoles*
Advised by: Tracy Rittenhouse

ANNIE XU JIN
Molecular & Cell Biology
Comparison of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva and Cancer
Advised by: David Goldhamer

AMANDA CATHERINE JOHNSON
Biomedical Engineering
Development of SPINE Mobile Application with Focus on the Activity Log to Monitor Low Back Pain
Advised by: Guoan Zheng

MARK ELLIOTT JOHNSON
Chemistry
Rongalite-mediated Controlled Radical Polymerization of Vinylidene Fluoride and Poly(vinylidene fluoride) Block Copolymers
Advised by: Alexandru Asandei

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Individualized: Biodiversity & Visual Media
Impact of Precipitation on Infection Rates of Mycorrhizal Fungi in Little Bluestem
Advised by: Robert Bagchi

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Chemical Engineering
ssDNA and Bicellar Nanodisc Complexes: A Template for siRNA Delivery Systems
Advised by: Mu-Ping Nieh

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The Impact of Net Neutrality and Additional Regulations on the Future of the Internet of Things in the United States
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History
Make History Accessible: The Case for YouTube
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Cognitive Science
The Denial of Black Victimhood: Examining Attitudes of Sexual Assault and Victim-Blaming on College Campuses
Advised by: Shayla Nunnally

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Psychological Sciences
Attitudes and Experiences with Mental Illness
Advised by: Diane Quinn

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Computer Science & Engineering
openEMR/FHIR API Development and Integration
Advised by: Steven Demurjian

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Human Development & Family Studies
Perceptions and Justifications of Sexting Victimization in Heterosexual and Homosexual Young Adults
Advised by: Alaina Brenick

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Marketing
Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension
Advised by: Heidi Bailey

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Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension
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Physiology & Neurobiology
The Effects of Scents on Dorsal and Ventral Hippocampal Place Cell Remapping
Advised by: Etan Markus

MIRIAM ESTHER KATZ
Molecular & Cell Biology
The Effects of Scents on Dorsal and Ventral Hippocampal Place Cell Remapping
Advised by: Michael O'Neill

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History
Treasure Hunters, Adventures, Sport Divers, and Archaeologists: Influences On Early Underwater Archaeology
Advised by: Helen Rozwadowski

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Biomedical Engineering
Development of a SPINE Mobile Application with a Focus on Learning Modules to Improve Low Back Pain Self-Management.
Advised by: Guoan Zheng

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Allied Health Sciences
College Students Lifestyle Habits and Body Image
Advised by: Valerie Duffy

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Chemical Engineering
Evaluation of Low-Cost Wet Deposition Nitrogen Detection Procedures
Advised by: Kristina Wagstrom

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Marine Sciences
Toxicity of Stormwater Runoff and Natural Sunlight to Early-Life-Stage Fish Embryos
Advised by: Pieter Visscher

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Mathematics
The Continuum Hypothesis and Set-Theoretic Forcing
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Revision as Resistance: Fanfiction as an Empowering Community for Female and Queer Fans
Advised by: Margaret Breen

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Biological Sciences
Female Authorship Rates: Otolaryngology Conferences
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Mathematics/Actuarial Science/Finance
Enterprise Risk Management for Small Businesses
Advised by: Jeyaraj Vadiveloo

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Exercise Science
The Relationship Between Breathing Laterality and Neck and Shoulder Mobility in Collegiate Club Swimmers
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Pathobiology
A Multi-Scale Model of Iron Biochemistry in the Mouse
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Monitoring Molecular Markers of Iron Status Throughout a Collegiate Soccer Season
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Nutritional Sciences
"I grew it, I made it, I ate it!" Evaluating a Bilingual Curricular Intervention for Middle School Students
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Psychological Sciences
Long Term Outcomes in Autism Spectrum Disorder: Exploring Subjective Quality of Life
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Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension
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Individualized: Computational Neuroscience
The Effect of Different Rhythmic Frequencies on Negative Mean Asynchrony
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Finance
From Tiger Cub to Tiger: An Analysis of Microfinance's Impact on Economic Growth in Southeast Asia
Advised by: Liping Qiu

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Nursing
Support for Mothers and Families: A Battle on Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
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Sociology
Seeds of Spring Valley
Advised by: Phoebe Godfrey

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Molecular & Cell Biology
iCanCope with Sickle Cell Disease
Advised by: Victoria Robinson

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Dental Stem Cells in Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Dentistry
Advised by: Kenneth Campellone

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Molecular & Cell Biology
The Mechanism Behind Minimal Lipid Accumulation in Whole Body MicroRNA-200c Knockout Mice After an Alcoholic Binge Diet
Advised by: Li Wang

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Molecular & Cell Biology
PIK3CA Gene Mutational Analysis of Parathyroid Adenomas in Mice
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Mechanical Engineering
Towards 3D Printing for Application to Drug Manufacturing
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China-Unites States Trade War
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History
Michel Debré and the Children of the Creuse: 1963-2007
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Computer Science & Engineering
Using Machine Learning to Further Classify the CelebA Dataset
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Allied Health Sciences
Effect of Gender Differences on Cortisol in College Students
Advised by: Bruce Blanchard

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Human Development & Family Studies
Chinese and American Mothers’ Ethnotheories of Child Rearing
Advised by: Charles Super

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Computer Science & Engineering
The Process of Game Development: Coding a 2D Puzzle Platformer in Unity
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Molecular & Cell Biology
FOP: A Scholarly Review on Researching Treatment Methods for a Debilitating Tissue Disorder
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Investigating the Role of RhoD in the Regulation of Autophagy
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Biological Sciences
Toxic Friendships: The Effect of Cyberbullying on Teenage Health
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Physiology & Neurobiology
Deposition of Chemical Species in the Respiratory Tract Using Particulate Matter Composition Distributions
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Mechanical Engineering
Apparatus for Balancing Fully Customized Quadcopters
Advised by: Chengyu Cao

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Electrical Engineering
Conversion of System Health Diagnostics across Simulators
Advised by: Shengli Zhou

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Diagnostic Genetic Sciences
Screening and Diagnosing Spinal Muscular Atrophy by Use of Buccal Swabs: A Validation Study using ddPCR
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Demographic Characteristics in the Diagnosis of Otitis Media, Post-Operative Complications of Tympanostomy Tube Placement, and Loss to Follow-Up
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Electrical Engineering
Enhancing Software Defined Radios for Underwater Acoustic Modem
Advised by: Peter Willett

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Biomedical Engineering
Physiological Monitoring of Stress and Fatigue Using Machine Learning
Advised by: Ki Chon

DENISSE MANZUETA
Chemistry
Augmenting the Reproducibility of Implantable Multi-layered, Electrochemical Glucose Biosensors
Advised by: Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos

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Biomedical Engineering
Injectable Hydrogel for Analgesic Delivery
Advised by: Lakshmi Nair

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English
The Only Read You Need: Editing for Content, Clarity, and Coherence
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Biomedical Engineering
Impact Device and Process to Test Cartilage Within Intact Knees with a Focus on Load Carriage Design
Advised by: David Pierce

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Computer Science
An Analysis of Key Rate in a Semi-Quantum Key Distribution Protocol (SQKD)
Advised by: Walter Krawec

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Exercise Science
Muscle Activation in Patients with a History of Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction
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Digital Media & Design
The Clocksmith
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Allied Health Sciences
Stress, Salivary Amylase and Eating Field Study
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Materials Science & Engineering
Strain Effects on Nanoscale Electronic Properties
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Isolation and proliferation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells from canines treated with a novel cancer vaccine to assess immune activation
Advised by: Lawrence Silbart

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Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
The Relationship Between Soil Conditions, Forest Composition, and Morph Frequencies of a Woodland Salamander, Plethodon cinereus
Advised by: Elizabeth Jockusch

KAITLYN ROSE MCCARTHY
Doctor of Pharmacy
Identification of Small Molecule Inhibitors of the Translesion Synthesis Pathway
Advised by: Matthew Hadden

HAYLEY ELIZABETH MCDONALD
Human Development & Family Studies
The Implications of Caregiver-Child Racial/Ethnic Match on Children’s Early Care Quality and Developmental Outcomes
Advised by: Caitlin Lombardi

JAMES MCGONNIGLE
Biological Sciences

MARIE CHRISTINE MCGOURTY
Physiology & Neurobiology
Categorization of Natural Sound Sequences Predicted by Cortical Neural Pathway Differences
Advised by: Heather Read

LEANN MARIE MCLAREN
History
West Indian Diasporic Consciousness: The Case of Hartford, CT
Advised by: Evelyn Simien

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Physiology & Neurobiology
The Impact of Musical Experience on Learning of Non-native Speech Sounds
Advised by: Emily Myers

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English
The Black Hole of Modernism: Transgressive Realism by Writers of Color In Interwar Period American Literature & Culture
Advised by: Sean Forbes

SAGAR MEHTA
Computer Engineering
Conversion of System Health Diagnostics across Simulators
Advised by: Shengli Zhou

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Allied Health Sciences
Examining the Roles of Stress and Sleep Quality on the Risk of Metabolic Syndrome Among Young Adults with Major Depressive Disorder
Advised by: Bruce Blanchard

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Physiology & Neurobiology
Development and Ex Vivo Characterization of Enteric Coated Chitosan Beads for Crohn’s Disease Management
Advised by: Diane Burgess

JENNIFER MESSINA
Molecular & Cell Biology
The Signaling Pathways of Metallothionein-Mediated Chemotaxis in Cancer
Advised by: Michael Lynes

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History
From Horseless Carriage to Driverless Car: A Comparative Analysis of the Automotive and Digital Mobility Revolutions
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Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Preliminary Data Suggests a Positive Correlation Between Melanization and Gypsy Moth Abundance
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Physiology & Neurobiology
The role of a lncRNA, HAGLR, in the progression of Hepatocellular carcinoma.
Advised by: Xiaobo Zhong

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Geoscience
Post-Glacial Stratigraphy and Human Impacts in Upper Bolton Lake, Eastern Connecticut: Implications for an Atlantic White Cedar Stand
Advised by: William Ouimet

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Antigen Persistence in Dendritic Cells and Influence on T Cell Maintenance
Advised by: Charles Giardina

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Foot and Mouth virus disease control strategies using replication defective adenoviruses.
Advised by: Steven Szczepanek

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Biomedical Engineering
Android Application Development for at Home Low Back Pain Therapy with a Focus on Goal Setting and User Feedback
Advised by: Guoan Zheng

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Psychological Sciences
The Bi-Directional Relationship Between Self-statements and Anxiety in Youth
Advised by: Kimberli Treadwell

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Molecular & Cell Biology
The Effect of a Mono allelic Single Point Mutation in the Cdh23/Ah1 Gene on Auditory Capabilities in Mice
Advised by: Douglas Oliver

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Biological Evaluation of Hedgehog Signaling Pathway Inhibitors
Advised by: Matthew Hadden

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Computer Science & Engineering
Virtualized Interdomain Route Hijacking Scenarios for Testing BGP Route Origin Validation
Advised by: Amir Herzberg

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Economics
Political Attitudes and Medicaid Expansion
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Biomedical Engineering
Novel Platform for Patterned Electrospinning for the Purpose of Mimicking Anisotropic Tissues
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Human Rights
When Trends and Sustainability Clash: The Environmental Impacts of the Fast Fashion Industry
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Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Be Quiet! Activity and Noise Level Characteristics of Mandated Periods of Quiet in College Students with Varied Noise Exposure Histories
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Applied Mathematical Sciences
School Policy Evaluated with Time-Reversible Markov Chain Model Iddo
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Physiology & Neurobiology
Localization of Odorant Binding Proteins in Drosophila Antennae
Advised by: Karen Menuz

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Biomedical Engineering
Improving Feedback from Surgical Devices – The Optimal Size, Location, and Pattern for Vibration Haptic Feedback Components
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Political Science
Anglo-Normativity: A Conceptual Exploration
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Biological Sciences
Clean Water: Social Impacts, Challenges, and Solutions
Advised by: Pamela Diggie

SYED HASSAN RAZA NAQVI
Individualized: Culture, Environment & Health
Clean Water: Social Impacts, Challenges, and Solutions
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DANIEL JOSEPH NETTING
Molecular & Cell Biology
Identity of Downstream Partners of Smao113
Advised by: Daniel Gage

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Biomedical Engineering
Finite Element Modeling of Mammography Paddle Designs
Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

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Physiology & Neurobiology
Quantifying Expression of Interneuron Subtype Markers for Dlx-2 Transfected NG2 Cells
Advised by: Akiko Nishiyama

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Nursing
A Survey of Parent Engagement in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
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Exercise Science
Validation of Internal Body Temperature and Physiological Measures During Exercise and Rest
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Shootings and Their Effect on Financial Performance in the Firearm Manufacturing Industry
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Connecticut Waterfront Property Premium in Areas with Flood Risk
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Diagnostic Genetic Sciences
Evaluating the Clinical Utility of Concurrent Assessment of Copy Number Variants and Mutational Status for Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia
Advised by: Judith Brown

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Computer Science & Engineering
SCarborSNV: Efficient Phylogeny-Aware Single Nucleotide Variant Detection for Single Cells
Advised by: Yufeng Wu

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Chemical Engineering
Modeling of Vapor Sorption in Nanoparticle Chemiresistors
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Management
Family Business Internship Program Research & Development
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Examining the Role of Nitrogen-Fixation in Trachymyrmex septentrionalis Fungus Gardens
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Pathobiology
Effect of Allergic Airway Disease on Prevnar-13 vaccination efficacy against pneumococcal disease in House Dust Mite mouse model
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Physiology & Neurobiology
Examining Behavioral Effects of Beta-Hydroxybutyrate on Glial Tauopathies in Drosophila Melanogaster
Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

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Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery Produ
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Political Science
The World’s Most Powerful Countries: Effects of U.S.-China Relations on the American Electorate
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Finance
An Analysis of the Business Structures and Performance of Traditional vs. “Freemium” Applications
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Physiology & Neurobiology
Quantifying Limits for Categorizing Natural Vocalizations: Implications for Diagnosis of Central Auditory and Speech Processing Deficit
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Fast Algorithm for Linear Regression Models With Sparsity-Inducing Penalties: Application to Network Inference
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Native Theories and Their Implications on the Conception of Rights
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La Movida Madrileña: A Cultural Revolution for Spain in the 1970s and 1980s
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Elementary Education
Teacher Perceptions of Book Selection Practices in Reading Instruction
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Development of a Sonically Powered Biodegradable Nanogenerator for Bone Regeneration
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Diet on Lipid Metabolism with Nuclear Receptor HNF4a
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Materials Science & Engineering
The Effect of the Tip Radius on Dislocation Nucleation in [0 0 1] Tungsten Single Crystal Under Spherical Nanoindentation
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Molecular & Cell Biology
Growth Plate Injury in the Tibial Murine Model
Advised by: Liisa Kuhn

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Molecular & Cell Biology
A Systematic Review of the Prominent Oncolytic Viruses and Their Merit in Fighting Cancer
Advised by: Patricia Rossi

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Pathobiology
A Systematic Review of the Prominent Oncolytic Viruses and Their Merit in Fighting Cancer
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History
Contextualizing the Holodomor Through a Survivor’s Perspective
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The effect of forest fragment size on host-plant quality and the development of Lepidoptera larvae
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LivingHealthy Application - Pilot Test and Initial Results
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Acting
Who Are You? An AnALICEsis
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Allied Health Sciences
The Effect of Rat Age and Sex on Non-Invasive Anterior Cruciate Ligament Tear Mechanism
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Accounting
The Impact of Blockchain Technology on the Audit Process
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Biomedical Engineering
A Finite Element Analysis of Arterial Hemorrhage and Other Physiological Systems
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Finance
Can Amazon Chop Down the Dollar Tree? An Analysis of the Amazon Effect on Discount Retailers
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Human Rights
Accessibility and Quality of Maternal Healthcare for Refugee Women in Greece: A Human Rights Perspective
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English
Threshold
Advised by: Vanessa Pelizzon

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Molecular & Cell Biology
Gender and Presentation Rates at National Otolaryngology Meetings
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Biomedical Engineering
Improving Spatial Awareness for the Visually Impaired via a Wearable Belt Design
Advised by: Patrick Kumavor

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Physiology & Neurobiology
Cellular and Molecular Characteristics of Supratentorial Ependymoma Using a Novel Mice Model
Advised by: Joseph Loturco

ERICKA J RANDAZZO
Pathobiology
Cellular and Molecular Characteristics of Supratentorial Ependymoma Using a Novel Mice Model
Advised by: Paulo Verardi

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Computer Science & Engineering
Experimental Evaluation of a New Phylogenetic Distance Measure
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Physics
Automated Injection Lock of a Laser Diode by an Arduino Microcontroller
Advised by: Daniel McCarron

TANYA RAO
Biological Sciences
Monitoring Calcium, Potassium, and Sodium Levels of Collegiate Soccer Players and Analyzing the Differences Seen In Marker Makeup Between Starters Versus Nonstarters
Advised by: Douglas Casa

JILLIAN CHIN RASTINEJAD
Human Rights
Comparing the Influence of Gender on Female College Students Majoring in Physics and/or Human Rights
Advised by: Shareen Hertel

JILLIAN CHIN RASTINEJAD
Physics
Black Hole Feedback at Cosmic High Noon Revealed by HST Grism Spectroscopy
Advised by: Jonathan Trump

NICHOLAS RAVALESE
Finance
Connecticut Crumbling Foundations and Effects on the Local and National Economy
Advised by: Yaacov Kopeliovich

KIRSTEN ELIZABETH REED
Art History
A Theater for Action: The Memorial to the Abolition of Slavery in Nantes, France
Advised by: Robin Greeley

EMILY ELISABETH REGAN
General Program in Art
Clementine: The Adventures at Foxhead Manor Volume III
Advised by: Alison Paul

ADAM REINHOLD
Chemistry
Efforts Towards the Synthesis of a Series of Lumazine-derived SWNT Surfactants Fotios
Advised by: Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos

KHARL MORIZETTE REYNADO
Economics
College Student Civic Participation: Academics, Social Circles, and Personal Interest as Influencers of Voter Turnout
Advised by: Talia Bar

KELSEY ELIZABETH RICHARD
Individualized: Global Health
The Effect of Mechanical Load on Regenerative Responses in Knee Articular Cartilage
Advised by: Caroline Dealy

KENNA ROSE RITTER
Materials Science & Engineering

EMILY MOLLOY ROBERTSON
Physiology & Neurobiology
The Effect of Muscarinic Antagonism on Tetrabenazine-induced Oral Tremor in a Rodent Model of Parkinson’s Disease
Advised by: John Salamone

MARY EILEEN ROCHE
Pathobiology
Diagnostics of Lyme Disease: An Improved Approach
Advised by: Guillermo Risatti

RACHEL M ROGERSON
Political Science
Can Education Reform Reduce the Gun Violence Crisis in the United States?
Advised by: Thomas Hayes

SARA ELIZABETH ROHDE
Physiology & Neurobiology
Anatomical and Behavioral Correlations with Induced Neonatal Hypoxic Ischemic Injury
Advised by: Roslyn Fitch

VERONICA ROLLINS
Political Science
Immigration Reform, or Hidden Foreign Policy? Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador as a Foreign Policy Response
Advised by: Charles Venator

VERONICA ROLLINS
Individualized: Law & Immigration
Immigration Reform, or Hidden Foreign Policy? Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador as a Foreign Policy Response
Advised by: Charles Venator

ALLISON JOYCE ROSACI
English
Social Performance in Nabokov’s Lolita
Advised by: Yohei Igarashi

SAMUEL ROSTOW
Political Science
Shouldering the Burdens of Empire: National Security and Human Rights in the Modern Era
Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

SARAH ELLEN RUMSEY
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Phenological Changes in Avian Migration Revealed by Local Long-Term Data
Advised by: Morgan Tingley

KATHERINE RUSSO
Biomedical Engineering
Preparing Hydrogels from Deceullularized Articular Cartilage for Tissue Engineering Applications
Advised by: Syam Nukavarapu

AMY MARY SAJI
Political Science
Real vs. Reel: Lessons of Chicago P.D. in the Current Social Climate of Increased Police Brutality
Advised by: Kimberly Bergendahl

AMY MARY SAJI
Individualized: Inequality, Law and Society
Real vs. Reel: Lessons of Chicago P.D. in the Current Social Climate of Increased Police Brutality
Advised by: Kimberly Bergendahl

KALLIOPE SKY SANDERSON
Psychological Sciences
GAD, Worry, and Problematic Social Responses in Middle and High School Students
Advised by: Kimberli Treadwell

CHRISTINE CARMELLA SAVINO
Management
Between Developed and Emerging Markets: Globalization of Large Consumer Good Enterprises
Advised by: Qing Cao

KATHERINE MARY SAWOSIK
Digital Media & Design
Stand
Advised by: Dennis Recchia

DAVID ALAN SCALES
History
Pilgrims of a Distant Dream: Henry R. Luce, Pearl S. Buck and American Narratives of China’s War of Resistance (1937-1945)
Advised by: Victor Zatsepine

JULIA ELIZABETH SCANZILLO
Mechanical Engineering
The Theory of Fatigue and the Effects of Plastic Deformation on Fatigue Capability of Fan Blades
Advised by: Ryan Cooper

JESSICA RUTH SELTZ
Nutritional Sciences
Effects of Sphingolipids on gene expression in LPS stimulated J774 Macrophages.
Advised by: Christopher Blesso

NICHOLAS C. SEMENZA
Physiology & Neurobiology
Shape Talk: How An Object’s Shape Affects Language Production
Advised by: Eiling Yee

DHRUV MANISH SHAH
Molecular & Cell Biology
Altered VGLUT2-positive Nerve Endings in the Colorectum Following Intracolonic TNBS Treatment
Advised by: Bin Feng

KRITIKA SHANKAR
Anthropology
Heavy Liquid Separation of Enamel and Dentin for Stable Isotope Analysis
Advised by: Gideon Hartman

LILIA SHEN
Biological Sciences
Embryonic Lethality of Cranial Neural Crest Deletion of Cdc73
Advised by: Andrew Arnold

QUINN ROSE SHIELDS
Biomedical Engineering
Silica Biomineralization and Mechanical Property Modulation
Advised by: Syam Nukavarapu

TAYLOR MARIE SIMAO
Molecular & Cell Biology
Microtubule Acetylation in Drosophila Germline Stem Cell System
Advised by: Barbara Mellone

MAREYNA ARIN SIMON
Psychological Sciences
Using Consumer-Grade EEG Devices to Measure Meditation Progress: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Advised by: Blair Johnson

ANTHONY J SISTI
Mathematics/Statistics
Community-Level Predictors of Mass Shootings in The United States
Advised by: Kun Chen and Blair Johnson

JENNIFER MARIE SKOOG
Chemical Engineering
Biodigester Latrine Design to Reduce Groundwater Contamination in the Abra Málaga Thastayoc Community
Advised by: Yongku Cho

SAMUEL RONALD SLEDZIESKI
Computer Science
TreeFix-TP: Phylogenetic Error Correction for Infectious Disease Transmission Network Inference
Advised by: Mukul Bansal

BRIDGET THERESA ERLINKOTTER SMITH
Digital Media & Design
Mascots
Advised by: Anna Lindemann

TONI MARIE SMITH
Cognitive Science
Synchronizing to Stimuli that Appear to Change Tempo: How Do Pitch-Induced Temporal Illusions Affect Tapping Behavior?
Advised by: Edward Large

ZACHARY PEREIRA SOLA
Electrical Engineering
Underwater Wireless Power and Data Transfer Via Common Inductive Coils
Advised by: Peng Zhang

GARRETT J SOLER
Biomedical Engineering
Review: Cerebral Shunts, Current Technologies and Future Endeavors
Advised by: Kazunori Hoshino

MIRANDA PAULA SOMMER
Mechanical Engineering

SARAH JOY SQUILLACE
Nursing
Low Breastfeeding Rates in Infants Born With Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Advised by: Xiaomei Cong

SARAH ANNE SRIVICHITRANOND
Molecular & Cell Biology
Culicoides Vectors Involved in the Transmission of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus-6 in the State of Connecticut
Advised by: Guillermo Risatti

ANNA KATHERINE STACHURA
English
Whitewashing and Misrepresentation: An Analysis of Discriminatory Marketing Practices in the Creation of Book Covers for Young Adult/Children’s Literature
Advised by: Katharine Capshaw

SAMANTHA CATHERINE STAFFIN
Urban & Community Studies
Community Support Systems for Reentering Young Adults
Advised by: Edith Barrett

ASHLEY ROSE STAMEGNA
Health Care Management
Solving the Healthcare Crisis? Potential Solution in State-led Single Payer
Advised by: Shane Murphy

PRAMIKA MARETTA STEPHEN
Physiology & Neurobiology
Understanding how the Administration of Phenytoin Affects Pregnancy and Development
Advised by: Xiaobo Zhong

JANIA ALEXIS STEWART-JAMES
Psychological Sciences
Impact of Perceived Discrimination on Psychosocial and Physical Well-Being in African Americans: A Systematic Review of Cohort Studies
Advised by: Blair Johnson

SAM DYLAN STRIZVER
Psychological Sciences

JENNIFER LORRAINE STURGEON
History
Accept the Challenge of the Saloon!: The Intercollegiate Prohibition Association and Student Prohibition Politics
Advised by: Peter Baldwin

ALYSSA KATHRYN SULLIVAN
Human Development & Family Studies
Bullying Experiences of Children of Immigrants
Advised by: Linda Halgunseth

HELENA SUN
Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Investigating Speech Perception in Noise and Noise Exposure Patterns in College Musicians
Advised by: Erika Skoe

MEAGAN ANNE SUNDSTROM
Mathematics/Physics
Analyzing the Mindsets and Behaviors of Introductory Physics Students through the Lens of Intellectual Humility
Advised by: Fabiana Cardetti

LUKE EDWARD SWANSON
Economics
Work Smarter, Not Harder: The Effects of Athletic Department Expenditure on School Branding and College Football Recruiting Rankings
Advised by: Ling Huang

MARY ELIZABETH SZARKOWICZ
Political Science
Seizing the News Cycle: The Coverage of Terrorism in American Hard and Soft News Sources
Advised by: Evan Perkoski

JULIE TAING
Chemistry
The Effect of Polymer Morphology on the Stability of Protein Polymer Conjugates
Advised by: Challa Kumar

CARLEEN JOYCE P TAN
Nursing
Acceptability of a Self-Management Intervention for Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Advised by: Angela Starkweather

CLARISSA TAN
English
The Asian American Educational Experience
Advised by: Cathy Schlund-Vials

CLARISSA TAN
English Education
The Asian American Educational Experience
Advised by: Catherine Little

OMAR TAWEH
Physiology & Neurobiology
Health Disparities In Resettled Refugee Populations: A Molecular and Humanitarian Approach
Advised by: John Redden

JOSHUA M TELLIER
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Investigating Geographical Differentiation in Sculpin (Cottus spp.) Morphology in Connecticut Watersheds
Advised by: Eric Schultz

MARY JO THOMETZ
Animal Science
Survival and Biocontrol of Listeria monocytogenes on Apples
Advised by: Mary Amalaradjou

MADISON THOMPSON
Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Using Quantitative Methods to Assess Language Use In the Home Environment: A Feasibility Study
Advised by: Jennifer Mozeiko

SARAH KRISTINE TODD
Nursing
Health Literacy, Cognitive Impairment, and Diabetes Knowledge among Incarcerated Persons Transitioning to the Community: Considerations for Intervention Development
Advised by: Louise Reagan

SIDNEY MAY TOMKO
Finance
The Psychology Behind Investing and Generational Differences in Financial Decision Making
Advised by: Yaacov Kopeliovich

MAXWELL LUKE TRACY
Chemical Engineering
Gibbs Energy Analysis of Concentrated Alkaline Nitrate Solutions with Application to Absorption Cycle Modeling
Advised by: Matthew Stuber

OLIVIA SHEA TRACY
Biological Sciences
An Investigation of the Effects of Oral Administration of the Novel Dopamine Reuptake Inhibitor CT-5404 in an Animal Model of Motivational Dysfunction
Advised by: John Salamone

RICHARD DEEGAN TRAUB
Finance
Understanding Volatility: An Analysis of Stock Market Returns in Different Variance Portfolios
Advised by: Paul Gilson

ALAIN NKONGOLO TSHIPAMBA
Electrical Engineering
Electric Car Motor Control and Inverter Design
Advised by: Ali Bazzi

TONYA MARIE TUCKER
Biological Sciences
Somatic Follicle Cells Function as a Barrier for Egg Activation in Drosophila
Advised by: Jianjun Sun

EMILYN REID TUOMALA
Political Science
Determining Defense: Bureaucracy, Threat and Missile Systems
Advised by: EvanPerkoski

JACOB TVARONAITIS
Mechanical Engineering
Kinematic Analysis of a Parallel Linkage System
Advised by: Vito Moreno

KELSEY MARIE TYLER
Animal Science
Mastitis Trends in Dairy Herds in Connecticut: A Retrospective Analysis
Advised by: Guillermo Risatti

SAMUEL FILIPPUS ULFSSON
Civil Engineering
Reimagining the UConn Transit System
Advised by: Norman Garrick

ANNA MARY VAETH
Physiology & Neurobiology
Inactivation of the Minor Spliceosome Causes Severe Limb Defects Due to Excessive Retinoic Acid Signaling
Advised by: Rahul Kanadia

KANEHA VALI
Animal Science
Establish Cell Assay to Study PRRSV Infectivity
Advised by: Young Tang

KRISHNA VALI
Physiology & Neurobiology
Investigating the Ketogenic Diet as a Treatment in a Drosophila Model of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy
Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

JUSTIN ROGER VAMPATELLA

Economics

An Economic Model of Corruption in Post-Apartheid South Africa

Advised by: Richard Langlois

CHRISTINA KYLE VAN DEVENTER

Marketing

Growing a Brand: Developing a Marketing Plan to Increase Student Awareness of and Engagement with UConn Extension

Advised by: Heidi Bailey

ADAM PETER VANCISIN

Accounting

Trends in Initial Public Offerings: Evidence from the Technology Sector

Advised by: Todd Kravet

RENOJ KURIEN VARGHESE

Digital Media & Design

Courtroom 600: Designing an Educational Experience in Virtual Reality

Advised by: Kenneth Thompson

PAIGE ELIZABETH VIDAL

Psychological Sciences

Doctor Reported Concerns for Autism Spectrum Disorder in a Racially and Socioeconomically Diverse Sample of 12- to 36-month-old Children.

Advised by: Deborah Fein

SAI SANJANA VIETLA

Physiology & Neurobiology

The Urinary Analysis on the Effects of Dietary Intake on Sulfur-Containing Metabolites in Newborns at Risk for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

ERIC A VIKLUND

Physics

Temperature Dependent Carrier Measurements in Thin Film Samples

Advised by: Barrett Wells

ADDISON KATE VITOLS

Biological Sciences

The Effect of Plant- and Animal-Derived Bioactive Compounds on Atherosclerosis Development

Advised by: Christopher Blesso

KRISTIN PAIGE VON OHLSEN

Psychological Sciences

Sexual Harassment and the Me Too Movement Through a Labor Rights Lens

Advised by: Vicki Magley

JAKE THOMAS WALKER

Finance

The Colin Kaepernick Effect

Advised by: Paul Gilson

XINYU WANG

Computer Science & Engineering

Identifying Neural Correlates of Aging from MRI Derived Features

Advised by: Jinbo Bi

CAIRA ROSELIN WARD

Human Development & Family Studies

The Social Influence on HIV Testing among Black Students at a Predominately White Institute

Advised by: Edna Brown

JESSICA WEAVER

Political Science

The Feminine Touch: How Female Representation Affects the Legislative Success of Women’s Issues Legislation

Advised by: Virginia Hettinger

SARA WEGHER

Economics

On Lyme disease and Climate Change: Evidence from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

Advised by: Michele Baggio

MELINDA AMBER WEI

Molecular & Cell Biology

Identification and Characterization of the Roles of Novel MicroRNA Sequences in Salpa thompsoni

Advised by: Rachel O’Neill

TESSA ROSE EILEEN WEIDIG

Nursing

Psychosocial Factors Influence Pain and Quality of Life in Young Adults with Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Advised by: Xiaomei Cong

WILLIAM J WEISHAUPT

Political Science

To Blame or Back The Blue: How Police Officers have implemented Miranda Rights on Televison Since 1960

Advised by: Kimberly Bergendahl

EILIS CLARE WELSH

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Finding Familiarity in the Unfamiliar: Native Speech Perception in Non-native Linguistic Contexts

Advised by: Adrian Garcia-Sierra

NATALIE ELISE WICKENHEISSER

Molecular & Cell Biology

Do Probiotics Improve Recovery From Acute Constipation in Kids?

Advised by: Victoria Robinson

DAMIAN K WILLIAMSON

Individualized: Family Health

Nutrition Initiative in University Dining Halls and Its Association with Dietary Intake among Adolescents in a Large University

Advised by: Alison Kohan

SELENA MAE WILLIAMSON

Nursing

Attitudes of NICU Nurses on the Use of Maternal Voice for NICU Infants: Survey Results

Advised by: Jacqueline McGrath

JEANETTE WU

Mathematics/Actuarial Science/Finance

The Role of the Regulator within the Insurance Industry: Insights Gained through an Actuarial Internship at the State of Connecticut Insurance Department

Advised by: James Trimble

ROBERT CHARLES WYMAN

Finance

Passive and Active management in Exchange Traded Funds and Mutual Funds

Advised by: Liping Qiu

INDRID XHUTI

Electrical Engineering

Neuromorphic Control

Advised by: Abhishek Dutta

SAIFEI XI

Management

Micro-lending Program Development

Advised by: Kevin Thompson

JESSICA FRANCES YOUNG

Physiology & Neurobiology

The Role of the JNK Signaling Pathway in Drosophila Ovulation

Advised by: Jianjun Sun

JESSICA FRANCES YOUNG

English

Sylvia Plath and the Body

Advised by: Clare Eby

SABRINA YUM YUM-CHAN

Psychological Sciences

Facilitators and Barriers to Help-Seeking and Treatment Maintenance Among Adolescents

Advised by: Jeffrey Burke

DANIEL CALEB ZEIGHER

Environmental Engineering

Silver Nanoparticle Toxicity and the Effect on Soil Protists

Advised by: Leslie Shor

MARIA ZINTER

Nursing

Family Attitudes on Aromatherapy Use in the Pediatric Setting

Advised by: Deborah McDonald

JAMI SARAH ZOLOTOR

Special Education

Educational Outcomes of Students With 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome

Advised by: Jennifer Freeman

University Scholars

This prestigious and highly competitive program enables talented, motivated, and innovative students to design plans of study geared toward their special interests. Working closely with a committee of three faculty advisors, University Scholars undertake learning opportunities far beyond the typical plan of study, and produce significant scholarly and creative projects such as works of art and research theses. Graduating as a University Scholar is the highest academic honor the University bestows upon undergraduate students. Following is an alphabetical listing of graduating University Scholars, their majors, their project titles, their faculty advisors, and their project descriptions. The principal advisor for each student’s University Scholar project is the first advisor listed. Students with the asterisk after their name are also Honors Scholars*.

TYLER WILLIAM ACKLEY*

Doctor of Pharmacy

Soluble Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Isoforms: Functional Roles and Potential Therapeutic Application in Rheumatoid Arthritis

Advised by: Caroline Dealy,

Brian Aneskievich, Andrea Hubbard

Tyler’s project takes a personalized medicine approach to understanding rheumatoid arthritis. Specifically, his project looks at novel mechanisms underlining cartilage health and the ability to treat rheumatoid arthritis without traditional immunosuppressive medications.

BRIAN AGUILERA*

Molecular & Cell Biology

Role of CD13 In Focal Adhesion Turnover and Its Significance in the Formation and Function of Tunneling Nanotubes

Advised by: Mallika Ghosh,

David Daggett, Kenneth Campellone

In this project Brian studied the role of cell membrane protein CD13 in the formation of TNTs, which are membrane bound connections between distant cells. The results of this study showed that CD13 is important for TNT formation through its function in regulating cell adhesion through Integrin trafficking and recycling.

ERIC JOHN BELTRAMI*

Physiology & Neurobiology

and Molecular & Cell Biology

Understanding the Function of Inhibitory Lateral Hypothalamic Neurons and their Contribution to Generating Complex Behavioral States

Advised by: Alexander Jackson, Geoffrey

Tanner, John Salamone, Mary Bruno

The lateral hypothalamic area (LHA) is a region of the brain critical for regulating sleep, feeding, stress and reward. Eric’s project used anatomical and behavioral tools in mice to examine how distinct populations of LHA neurons regulate specific behavioral outputs, thus contributing to our understanding of LHA function in health and disease.

SULEYMAN BERKER BOZAL*

Structural Biology/Biophysics

A Robust Delivery System for siRNA Therapeutics and the CRISPR/Cas9 System in Gene Regulation and Editing

Advised by: Diane Burgess,

Antonio Costa, Eric May

Süleyman studied the formulation of RNA therapeutics using lipid nanoparticles. Specifically, this project focused on delivery of siRNA and the CRISPR/Cas9 system in gene regulation and editing, therapeutics which are growing and emerging in pharmaceuticals. The efficacy of the formulations were determined by culturing and drugging cells.

MEI GARNET BUZZELL

General Program in Art

Out of Sight

Advised by: Janet Pritchard,

Edvin Yegir, Kelly Dennis

Mei’s University Scholar project involved photographing life in the food service industry in a large resort hotel. Mei’s publication, entitled “Out of Site,” documents her experience and those of her coworkers through photographs and text about the management and a unique cultural community.

LAUREN MICHELE CENCI*

English

Wordsworth’s Elegiac Mode

Advised by: Charles Mahoney,

A. Harris Fairbanks, Yohei Igarashi

Lauren Cenci has spent the last few semesters studying poetry and poetics with a particular interest in elegy, pastoral, and the natural world. Her University Scholar project, “Wordsworth’s Elegiac Mode,” defines and examines the trope of Wordsworthian tranquility and how loss therefore influences and changes the human-nature connection.

EMERSON TAYLOR DANG

Physics

Exploring New Materials for

Nanopositioning

Advised by: Ilya Sochnikov,

Cara Battersby, Barrett Wells

Strontium titanate, a perovskite crystal, shows remarkable promise for use as a piezoelectric at temperatures below 1 K. Emerson worked to design a bimorph bender utilizing strontium titanate for use as a nanopositioner in a scanning Superconducting Quantum Interference Device (SQUID) microscope at low temperatures.

SARAH MARIE FERRIGNO*

Psychological Sciences

and Molecular & Cell Biology

Investigating the Role of the 5-HT1B Receptor Regarding Motivational Symptoms of Major Depressive Disorder

Advised by: John Salamone,

Aoife Heaslip, William Bailey

The most commonly prescribed antidepressants are selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as Prozac. Although these drugs are effective with treating some aspects of depression, motivational impairments tend to be exacerbated. Therefore, the aim of Sarah’s project was to determine if the serotonin-1B receptor is involved in this phenomenon.

KATHERINE LAURIE FOLKER*

Puppetry

The Monster and the Mob: Exploring

Otherness through the Art of Horror

Advised by: John Bell, Lewis Gordon,

Bart Roccoberton

Horror has always given insight into the fears and anxieties of a society. This project explores these concepts in a hands on environment, incorporating the aesthetics of horror and the puppets ability to act as a conduit for ideas. The resulting short film, titled ‘Something,’ follows a protagonist trying to protect a monster from a hostile town.

KAYLEIGH ERIN GRANVILLE*

Environmental Sciences

Seasonal Patterns in Denitrification and

Nitrous Oxide Production in Salt Marshes

Advised by: Ashley Helton,

Beth Lawrence, Chris Elphick

Kayleigh Granville studied how greenhouse gas emissions from Connecticut salt marshes change throughout the growing season. Her project will have implications for how salt marshes will be affected by global climate change and sea level rise.

MING-YEAH HU*

Molecular & Cell Biology and Allied

Health Sciences

Stem Cell Spheroids for Cartilage

Regeneration

Advised by: Syam Nukavarapu,

Mary Bruno, Jeanne McCaffrey

About 30 million adults in the US are affected by osteoarthritis and the associated cartilage loss. Articular cartilage repair is a significant clinical challenge and the current solutions are suboptimal. This project developed a new approach combining 3D stem cell spheroids and dynamic culture for improved articular cartilage tissue engineering.

continued

CELESTE JUANITA KURZ*

Nutritional Sciences

“I grew it, I made it, I ate it!” Evaluating a Bilingual Curricular Intervention for Middle School Students

Advised by: Michael Puglisi, Hedley Freaake, Phoebe Godfrey

Celeste’s project evaluated the efficacy of a bilingual curricular intervention for 6th-8th grade students. She developed the curriculum for the interdisciplinary gardening, cooking, and nutrition program during an internship at the Hispanic Health Council. Participants showed healthier behaviors and significant improvements in language confidence!

ERIC SCOTT LEPOWSKY*

Mechanical Engineering

Towards 3D Printing for Application to Drug Manufacturing

Advised by: Savas Tasoglu, Luyi Sun, Sharareh Emadi

Eric Lepowsky spent the past few years contributing to the development and characterization of a low-cost, droplet-based 3D bioprinter capable of printing hydrogels at high-resolution. In conjunction, he has written programs to produce the code to 3D-print pharmaceutical products of varying size and dosage for use with the custom bioprinter.

CRAIG ALLEN MENDONCA*

Physiology & Neurobiology

Development and Ex Vivo Characterization of Enteric Coated Chitosan Beads for Crohn’s Disease Management

Advised by: Diane Burgess, Akiko Nishiyama, Mary Bruno

The objective of Craig’s project was to use controlled and targeted delivery of the anti-inflammatory drug, dexamethasone for the localized treatment of Crohn’s disease. A microspheric formulation designed to withstand the acidic stomach environment, traverse the small intestine, and release dexamethasone at the active site in the colon was developed and tested.

JENNIFER MESSINA*

Molecular & Cell Biology

The Signaling Pathways Metallothionein-Mediated Chemotaxis in Cancer

Advised by: Michael Lynes, Adam Zweifach, Nicole Broderick

Jennifer Messina has spent the past three years conducting research in the Lynes Lab. For her project, she used cancer cell models to investigate the signaling pathways involved in metallothionein-mediated chemotaxis, and to examine the therapeutic potential of UC1MT, an anti-metallothionein monoclonal antibody, to inhibit breast cancer metastasis.

AYUSH MITTAL*

Molecular & Cell Biology

Antigen Persistence in Dendritic Cells and Influence on T Cell Maintenance

Advised by: Pramod Srivastava, Charles Giardina, Carl Schlichting

The interplay of cells influencing the innate and adaptive immune responses determine

much of the reply the body has to foreign organisms and viruses. Through his project, Ayush worked to shed light on different aspects of the relationship between dendritic cells and antigen, characteristics such as time of antigen presentation to T cells and degree.

MONICA NAGALLA*

Physiology & Neurobiology

Localization of Odorant Binding Proteins in *Drosophila Antennae*

Advised by: Karen Menuz, Linnaea Ostroff, Rahul Kanadia

Due to the prevalence of disease transmission by insects, it is critical to study pest sensory capabilities. This project looks into the odor reception pathway of *Drosophila*, with a finer focus on the potential implications of odorant degrading enzymes in the antennal auxiliary cells, in a hope to increase understanding of insect olfaction.

AVI SUNIL PATEL*

US&HS Molecular & Cell Biology and Individualized Major: Health, Medicine, and Society

Development of a Sonically Powered Biodegradable Nanogenerator for Bone Regeneration

Advised by: Thanh Nguyen, David Goldhamer, and Maryann Morris

Avi’s project involved a novel treatment method for bone defects and bone fractures. He leveraged a biodegradable plastic to develop an implantable bionic tissue scaffold that first converts externally applied ultrasound into electricity, and then utilizes that electrical charge to stimulate stem cells differentiation into bone cells.

HETAL DINALKUMAR PATEL*

Materials Science & Engineering

The Effect of the Tip Radius on Dislocation Nucleation in [0 0 1] Tungsten Single Crystal Under Spherical Nanoindentation

Advised by: Seok-Woo Lee, Pamir Alpay, Bryan Huey

Mechanical properties of materials at the nanoscale change drastically and they must be redefined in order to design robust small scale devices. This project aims to understand nano to bulk scale transition of the strength of single crystal tungsten at an atomic level precision using spherical nanoindentation and advanced electron microscopy.

USRA QURESHI*

Molecular & Cell Biology and Human Rights

Accessibility and Quality of Maternal Healthcare for Refugee Women in Greece: A Human Rights Perspective

Advised by: Kathryn Libal, Cesar Abadia, Judith Landin

Usra Qureshi has spent the last few years volunteering and conducting research in refugee camps in Greece. She is passionate about service to immigrant populations and hopes to integrate this into her future career.

ERICKA J RANDAZZO*

Physiology & Neurobiology and Pathobiology

Cellular and Molecular Characteristics of Supratentorial Ependymoma Using a Novel Mice Model

Advised by: Joseph Loturco, Joanne Conover, Paulo Verardi

Ericka Randazzo has spent the last three years studying the cellular and molecular characteristics of a pediatric brain tumor known as supratentorial ependymoma. Creating a novel mouse model with which to study the tumors, she is seeking to unravel the progenitor cell type that gives rise to the tumors, as well as the mechanism of tumorigenesis.

KELSEY ELIZABETH RICHARD*

Individualized: Global Health

The Effect of Mechanical Load on Regenerative Responses in Knee Articular Cartilage

Advised by: Caroline Dealy, Mary Bruno, David Pierce

This project examines the molecular impact of mechanical load on cartilage regeneration. More specifically, it focuses on the stimulation of progenitor cells in the tissue via low energy impact load. The goal is to understand articular cartilage more thoroughly in order to advance treatments of Osteoarthritis in the future.

MEAGAN ANNE SUNDSTROM*

Mathematics/Physics

Analyzing the Mindsets and Behaviors of Introductory Physics Students through the Lens of Intellectual Humility

Advised by: Fabiana Cardetti, Jason Hancock, Manuela Wagner

Intellectual Humility (IH) is defined as “the owning of one’s limitations.” Meagan analyzed IH surveys, written reflections, and classroom observations from both a traditional, lecture-style physics course and an interactive, problem solving based physics course to understand students’ mindsets and interactions through the philosophical lens of IH.

KRISHNA VALI*

Physiology & Neurobiology

Investigating the Ketogenic Diet as a Treatment in a *Drosophila* Model of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy

Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner, Daniel Mulkey, Anastasios Tzingounis

Krishna investigated the efficacy of the ketogenic diet (high fat, low carb diet) as a therapy to treat chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), which is the result of multiple traumatic brain injuries. He aimed to elucidate the metabolic pathway of the ketogenic diet to eventually replace the strenuous diet with the simple administration of a drug.

Honors Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipient



Jennifer Sterling-Folker

Professor Sterling-Folker is an international relations theorist whose writing focuses on theories of international organization and global governance. She is the author of *Making Sense of International Relations Theory* (Lynne Rienner, 2005; 2013); *Theories of International Cooperation and the Primacy of Anarchy: Explaining U.S. International Monetary Policy-Making After Bretton Woods* (SUNY Press, 2002); numerous book chapters and articles that have appeared in *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Studies Review*, and *Millennium*. She is currently the Alan R. Bennett Honors Professor of Political Science. She is also a co-editor of the BISA journal, *Review of International Studies*, and a member of the ISA publications committee. She has served as a co-editor of *International Studies Review*, an Associate Editor of *International Studies Perspective*, the series editor for Dilemmas in World Politics, and a member of the ISA Nominations Committee.

Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient



Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett is a 1969 Honors graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He subsequently received his JD degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1972. He began his legal career as associate chief counsel at the Food and Drug Administration, then was Counsel to the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. After leaving the Hill, he founded a 22 lawyer firm, which eventually merged into a large law firm, Ropes & Gray. His practice emphasized policy, legislation and regulatory matters, mostly involving the FDA. Alan retired from the active practice of law in 2017.

Dr. Lynne Goodstein and Dr. Peter Langer Award Recipient



Kaitlin Heenehan

Kaitlin Heenehan, an alumna of the UConn Honors Program, currently serves as Honors Program STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Scholar Advisor. In this role, she assists students who have earned the STEM Scholar scholarship designation as well as all Honors students with a STEM major or interest. Kaitlin connects students to opportunities in and out of the classroom as well as within and beyond UConn and to support them in their growth and development as the next generation of innovators, researchers, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers. She coordinates events, programs, courses, and opportunities for students, and works closely with the Honors and Enrichment team, departments on campus, and partners beyond UConn to help students explore areas of interest such as leadership and professional development, research, education abroad, and internships.

Ms. Heenehan received a B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology from UConn, graduating as an Honors Scholar. She then earned a M.A.Ed. in Higher Education from

Virginia Tech. She joined the Honors Program staff at UConn in 2013, serving as a Program Coordinator in the Honors Programming and Events office prior to her current role. She advises the STEM Scholar Executive Board, a leadership board for the STEM Honors community and co-directs Honors to Opportunities (H2O House), an Honors interdisciplinary learning community. She is also one of the primary contacts for students with questions about the Honors Thesis, particularly in STEM fields. Ms. Heenehan is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive Honors community and is Husky Ally Safe Zone certified. She also serves the UConn community through membership on the Teale committee as well as serving as the most recent chair of the Persistence of Women in STEM committee at UConn.

Past Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipients

2017-18	Brian Aneskievich, School of Pharmacy	2010-11	William F. Bailey, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2016-17	Blair T. Johnson, Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2009-10	Lawrence Gramling, Accounting, School of Business
2015-16	Alaina Brenick, Human Development and Family Studies,Collage of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2009-10	Robert Thorson, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014-15	Mark Boyer, Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2008-09	Robert Gross, History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013-14	Patrick Dragon, Mathematics, Collage of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2007-08	Steven Wisensale, Human Development & Family Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013-14	Annamaria Csizmadia, Human Development and Family Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2006-07	Louis Lombardi, Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2012-13	Patricia J. Neafsey, Nursing, School of Nursing	2005-06	Lawrence Hightower, Molecular & Cell Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2012-13	Rebecca Flanagan, Pre-Law, Enrichment Program	2004-05	Robin Chazdon, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2011-12	Virginia Hettinger, Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2003-04	Harry A. Frank, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Past Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2017	Sarah D. Kambou ’80	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2012	Marian Kennedy ’70	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2017	Kate Farrar ’01	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2011	Robert M. Holster ’68	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2016	David Fetterman ’76	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2011	Nicole McKinney Lindsay ’96	School of Business
2016	Mark Romanoff ’79	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2010	Roger Ballentine ’85	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015	Robert LaBarre ’76	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2010	Virginia DeJohn Anderson ’76	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015	Patricia Friar ’80	School of Business	2009	Mark Weidenbaum ’77	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014	Howard M. Sandler ’78	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2009	Daniel Levine ’78	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014	Brian Preleski ’87	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2008	Bonnie Sarno Vontell ’81	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013	Anthony E. Chiodo ’80	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	2007	Carolyn Runowicz ’73	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013	Chad A. Landmon ’96	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences			
2012	Bill DeWalt ’69	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences			

The Honors Board of Associate Directors

The Honors Board of Associate Directors includes faculty members, Honors Program staff, and students from the Honors Council. The Board advises and assists with the work of the Honors Program.

Brian Aneskievich, School of Pharmacy	Zoe Jensen, Class of 2020
Dylan Audette, Molecular and Celle Biology (Hartford)	Michelle Judge, School of Nursing
Judy Brown, College of Agriculture, Health, & Narural Resources	Claudia Koerting, Marine Sciences (Avery Point)
Mary Burke, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Jennifer Lease Butts, Honors Program
Daniel Burkey, School of Engineering	Catherine Little, Neag School of Education
Jamie Caruso, Bachelor of General Studies Program (Waterbury)	Richard Luddy, Physics (Hartford)
Jaclyn Chancey, Honors Program	Tara Malone, Assistant Director of Career Development (Hartford)
James Chrobak, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Rachel O’Neill, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Laura Donorfio, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Waterbury)	John Richardson, School of Fine Arts
Leigh Fine, Honors Program	Patricia Szarek, Honors Program
Reinier Gonzalez, Class of 2022	Connor Treadwell, Class of 2022
Travis Grosser, School of Business	Rebecca Troeger, Academic Center Coordinator (Avery Point)
Virginia Hettinger, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Richard Watnick, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Stamford)

The Honors Program Staff

Jaclyn Chancey, Assistant Director for Curriculum, Assessment, and Planning | Leigh Fine, Assistant Director, Honors Residential Communities and Programming | Kristen Glines, Program Coordinator, Honors Residential Communities and Programming | Kaitlin Heenehan, STEM Scholar Advisor | Jessamy Hoffmann, Assistant Director & Academic Advisor | Anne Kim, STEM Scholar Advisor | Jennifer Lease Butts, Assistant Vice Provost, Honors and Enrichment Programs & Director, Honors Program | Ellen Mayo, Executive Assistant | Christie Soltys, Program Assistant, Honors Residential Communities and Programming | Patricia Szarek, Associate Director for Enrollment Management