



MEDALS CEREMONY

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.

This rite of passage marks 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. It is important to note that their successes were not accomplished alone. Much of their development depended upon a wider support system. Honors faculty and advisors worked closely with our students to guide their studies and broaden their minds. Parents and family have supported their scholar, offering any assistance required for them to blossom into adults. And the Honors alumni and donors extended helping hands to move our students forward, giving of their time, their wisdom, and their own success to aid our students' journeys. Although these extraordinary and challenging times have prevented us from gathering at the close of the 2019-2020 academic year; the joy, pride, and gratitude we celebrate as an Honors community remains a constant as we 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.

MARLENE ABOUAASSI**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Study of Putative Niche Adapting Operon in Microbes Inhabiting the Gut of Blood Digesting Animals

Advised by: Johann Gogarten

JESSICA ADAMS**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Analyzing the Effects of Downstream Antisense RNAs (daRNAs) on the Convergent Transcription of Coding Genes

Advised by: Leighton Core

KYLE MATTHEW ADAMS**Political Science**

Left Out of Congress: Examining the Struggles of Republican Women in the 2018 Congressional Elections

Advised by: Paul Herrnson

ALYSSA M. ADDESSO**Molecular & Cell Biology**

The Effect of the Microbiome on the Immune Response in Zebrafish

Advised by: Sarah Knutie

ZACHARY JOSHUA ADLER**Chemical Engineering**

The Effect of Low Relative Humidity on the Overpotentials of Proton-Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells

Advised by: Radenka Maric

HANAKO OHTA AGRESTA**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Quality Control Pipeline for PacBio Generated 16s rRNA CCS Sequence Long Reads

Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

AMANDA FRANCISCA AGUI**Materials Science & Engineering**

Computational Design of Functional Organic Materials for Engineering Applications with Machine Learning and Data Mining Approaches

Advised by: Serge Nakhmanson

ANNA ZARRA ALDRICH**English**

Iron Manicures: Sex, Power, and Sedition in Margaret Atwood's Writing

Advised by: Regina Barreca

ZOYA ALI**Economics**

The Economics and Politics of Social Welfare Funding for Puerto Rico: Options and Challenges

Advised by: Richard Langlois

SABA ALI**Nutritional Sciences**

Tailored mHealth Messages for Obesity Prevention: Application to a Pediatric Emergency Department (PED)

Advised by: Valerie Duffy

KEVIN MICHAEL ALWELL**Sport Management**

Quantifying Competitive Balance in Professional Sport

Advised by: Laura Burton

DAVID GEORGE AMANN**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Gene Expression Analysis of BRAFV600E Transfected Mouse Brain Tissue Using GSEA and IPA

Advised by: Joseph Loturco

CAROLINA A. AMIGO**Communication**

Rising

Advised by: Stephen Stifano

ELIZABETH JOY AMORY**English**

Joy

Advised by: Thomas Dulack

ADITI ANAM**Biological Sciences**

Remapping of Place Cells in the Dorsal and Ventral Hippocampus in Response to Environmental Change

Advised by: Etan Markus

LUKE SIGURD ANDERSON**Anthropology**

Cultural Food Habits as a Social Factor of Health Among Immigrants in New Haven, Connecticut: A Focused Ethnographic Study

Advised by: Pamela Erickson

ASHLEY MARIE ANDINO**Political Science**

Separate and Still Unequal: A Case Study of Racial Isolation and Educational Outcomes in Bridgeport, Connecticut 1960 - 2020

Advised by: Jason Irizarry

ALYSSA LAUREN ANGELL-MACKENZIE**Linguistics/Psychology**

Theoretical Approaches to Sentence Accent Placement in English

Advised by: Hendrikus Van der hulst

SOPHIA JOHANNA ANGELO**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Determining the Protein Composition of Perineuronal Nets in Mouse Cortical Tissue Using Antibody-Based Proximity Labeling

Advised by: Joseph Loturco

SARAH GRACE ARNETT**Cognitive Science**

Evaluating the Verbal Language Use of People with Aphasia in Non-Clinical Settings: A Feasibility Study using LENA Technology

Advised by: Jennifer Mozeiko

SARAH GRACE ARNETT**Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences**

Evaluating the Verbal Language Use of People with Aphasia in Non-Clinical Settings: A Feasibility Study using LENA Technology

Advised by: Jennifer Mozeiko

MADELEINE F. ASELTINE

Individualized: Community Health and Wellness Improving Food Ranking Systems for Use in Food Pantries

Advised by: Michael Puglisi

YOTAM ASHKENAZI**Chemistry**

A Modular Synthesis of Hernandezine via Sequential and Orthogonal Ullmann and S_NA_r Reactions

Advised by: Mark Peczu

AMANDA NICOLE ASTROLOGO**Biomedical Engineering**

Utilizing Computational modeling to Evaluate ACL Force (Strain) During Running

Advised by: Kristin Morgan

MOISHE AZOFF-SLIFSTEIN**Materials Science & Engineering**

Nanoscale Photovoltaic Property Mapping of Perovskite Materials

Advised by: Bryan Huey

JIANA TIFFANY BAKER

Physiology & Neurobiology

Relationships between Hippocampal Mediated Spatial Memory and Physical Activity for Men and Women

Advised by: Beth Taylor

ASHLEY LAUREN BALDELLI

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Preventive Care and Healthcare Costs

Advised by: James Trimble

DEA BALLIJ

Political Science

The New Deal: Elements of Socialism in American Capitalism

Advised by: Stacy Maddern

MITALI BANERJEE

Physiology & Neurobiology

Overexpression and Rearrangements of Cyclin D1 in the Development of Parathyroid Adenomas and Hyperparathyroidism

Advised by: Patricia Rossi

MITALI BANERJEE

Molecular & Cell Biology

Overexpression and Rearrangements of Cyclin D1 in the Development of Parathyroid Adenomas and Hyperparathyroidism

Advised by: Andrew Arnold

HALLE M. BARBER

Chemistry

Development of a DNA Crosslinked Nanocapsule for Sensing Applications

Advised by: Jessica Rouge

EMMA G. BARNES

History

The Infinite, the Absolute, and the "End of Antiquity": German Idealism and the Philosophical Jesus in Schelling, Hegel, and Nietzsche, 1785-1889

Advised by: Charles Lansing

EMMA G. BARNES

German

Deutschland und Humanismus, "wie das Gesetz es befahl": Zum Symbolismus und tragische Ironie in Heinrich Bölls Wanderer, kommst du nach Spa... (1950)

Advised by: Sebastian Wogenstein

DANIEL CHARLES BARRY

Biomedical Engineering

Degradation Mediated Release of Curcumin from Glycol Chitosan Hydrogel

Advised by: Lakshmi Nair

MEHDI BEGAG

Environmental Engineering

Investigation of Activated Carbon and Protein Amendments in Adsorbent Capping Applications for Contaminated Sediment Remediation

Advised by: Maria Chrysochoou

EMMA CATHERINE BELLIVEAU

Environmental Studies

Globalization and Free-Market Capitalism; How the Peruvian Potato Market Opens up New Avenues to Address the Environmental Impact of Global Supply Chains

Advised by: Mark Boyer

SAMANTHA MARY BENHAM

Animal Science

Isolation and Identification of Culicoides Vectors Responsible for Transmission of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Virus in Connecticut

Advised by: Guillermo Risatti

JEREMY B. BENNETT

Biomedical Engineering

EASEL: An Integrated and Accessible Framework for the Annotation of Eukaryotic Reference Genomes

Advised by: Jill Wegrzyn

NICHOLAS X. BENNETT

Human Development & Family Studies

Perceived Teacher Support as a Moderator of Depression Among Transgender Youth

Advised by: Ryan Watson

PREETAM R. BERAN

Finance

An Introduction to High Frequency Trading, Commonly Used Strategies, and Their Impact on Equity Markets

Advised by: Yaacov Kopeliovich

REBECCA BERNARDO

Nursing

The State of Diabetes Knowledge among Incarcerated Men: A Secondary Analysis

Advised by: Louise Reagan

DAVID JAMES BIGOS

Accounting

The Effect of SOX 404(b) on Large Non-Accelerated Filers' Earnings Per Share Rounding Behavior

Advised by: Davod Weber

ERIN CASEY BLAKE

Individualized: Mental Health & Well Being

The Deck Stacked Against Us: A Bivariate Correlation Analysis of Childhood Toxic Stress, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and the Well-Being of College Students

Advised by: Crystal Park

RILEY H. BLUMENFIELD

Materials Science & Engineering

Hydrolytic Degradation Study of Polyphosphazene-PLGA Blends

Advised by: Cato Laurencin

DANIEL BOBYLOV

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Sports Analytics

Advised by: Edward Perry

AMELIA RAE BOWMAN

Individualized: Young Adult Fiction: Identity and Diversity

The Creation of Spark: Crafting a Young Adult Novel

Advised by: Victoria Smith

WALLIS WILLIAM BOYD

Chemical Engineering

Development of Protist-Facilitated Transport for Sustainable Agriculture-Biotech

Advised by: Leslie Shor

MAXIME A. BRAUN

Physiology & Neurobiology

Lisdexamfetamine, Dopamine, and Binge Eating Behavior: Measuring the Effects of LDX on Extracellular Dopamine Levels in the Perifornical Hypothalamus via Microdialysis

Advised by: John Salamone

WILLIAM FRANCISCO BRINCHEIRO

Allied Health Sciences

Research Methodology of Aerobic and Resistance Training to Reduce Insulin Resistance in Obesity

Advised by: Jeanne McCaffery

JOHN J. BRINDISI

Management & Engineering for Manufacturing

Redefining Wearable Medical Technology for Anaphylaxis

Advised by: Jiong Tang

PATRICK J. BRIODY

Physiology & Neurobiology

Ventricular Development in Normal and Hydrocephalic Brains: Ependymal Wall Formation and Stem Cell Division

Advised by: Joanne Conover

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

The Socio-political Significance of Former Chinese Chairman Jiang Zimen's Three Represents Policy

Advised by: Richard Wilson

ELIZABETH S. BULKLEY

Cognitive Science

Bias for Video Game Stimuli in College Students

Advised by: Robert Astur

NOAH HENRY BURRICK

Finance

Dissecting Convertible Bonds: How Debt and Equity Combine to Value a Company

Advised by: Yaacov Kopeliovich

MADISON ASHLEY BUSICK**Digital Media & Design**

Consumer Response to Green Brands vs. Traditional Brands on Digital Platforms

Advised by: John Murphy

TAYLOR A. CALDWELL**English**

Complexion for Protection: Colorism and Human Rights in Black America

Advised by: Jerry Phillips

ALEXANDER CALVI**Animal Science**

Diagnosis of Mastitis in Dairy Cattle using Human and Machine Interpretation of Ultrasound Scans

Advised by: Sheila Andrew

CAMERON JOHN CANTELMO**Political Science**

Collective Consciousness in Political Science Fiction and Its Implications; Conceptions of Community Across American Women Political Thinkers

Advised by: Matthew Singer

PATRICK S. CANTWELL**Molecular & Cell Biology**

PAM is Selectively Packaged onto Exosomes Derived from Peptidergic Cells

Advised by: Vishwanatha Rao

AUSTIN JAMES CARFI**Digital Media & Design**

AUVI

Advised by: Charles Lawry

SEAN DALY CAVANAUGH**English**

Simulation and Community in the Contemporary American Novel

Advised by: Clare Eby

CARLI ANN CECKANOWICZ**Exercise Science**

An Analysis of Abdominal Muscle Stability Following Hyperthermic Exercise in Euhydrated and Dehydrated Conditions

Advised by: Garielle Giersch

ANNA R. CERULLI**Nursing**

Examining Barriers to Breastfeeding: How to Improve Outcomes for New Mothers and Infants

Advised by: Ruth Lucas

LEELAKRISHNA CHANNA**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Role of Multidrug Resistance Protein 4 in the Pathogenesis of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Diseases

Advised by: Charles Giardina

CANLING CHEN**Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance**

Analysis of Affordable Care Act and it's Applicability Toward Universal Healthcare

Advised by: Timothy Patria

AMY ZIZHU CHEN**Allied Health Sciences**

Motion-induced blindness: testing the brain oscillator hypothesis utilizing the oscillator frequency and the back-ground speed relationship

Advised by: Till Frank

YUTONG CHEN**Statistics**

Flexible Box-Cox Transformation Models for Analyzing UConn Energy Usage Data

Advised by: Ming-Hui Chen

THOMAS GARDINER CHESSMAN**Mechanical Engineering**

Design of Real-Time Feedback Control System for Selective Laser Sintering

Advised by: Chih-Jen Sung

RYAN CHESTER**Political Science**

Is China Stealing Our Tech? A Look Into The Role of Intellectual Property Rights in Us-China Trade Relations

Advised by: Meina Cai

ELLEN M. CHIRIKOS**Management**

Being Emotionally Savvy at Work: How Stress Affects Job Satisfaction as a Function Emotional Labor

Advised by: Kyoungjo Oh

CHRISTOPHER CHOI**Materials Science & Engineering**

Investigation and Comparative Analysis of Ancient Ceramics Excavated from Nippur

Advised by: Lesley Frame

JUNE CHU**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Exploring Attitudes Towards Diabetes in the Connecticut Hispanic/Latino Community

Advised by: Lisa Werkmeister Rozas

CARMEN CIARDIELLO**Mechanical Engineering**

Design of Planar Mixing Layer Flames

Advised by: Francesco Carbone

LAUREN MARIE CIULLA**Digital Media & Design**

Like a Glove: A Progressive Web App and Google Chrome Extension

Advised by: Joel Salisbury

TIMOTHY D. COCOZZA**Psychological Sciences**

Barriers to Supporting the LGBTQ Community for College Students

Advised by: Diane Quinn

ALEXANDER COENRAADS**Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance**

Exploring and Amending Social Security

Advised by: James Trimble

KAILEE BREANNA COLLINS**Digital Media & Design**

Exploring Historical Literary Themes through Modern Design Techniques

Advised by: Joel Salisbury

JULIA I. COLLITON**Biological Sciences**

Evaluation of Dietary Sphingosine on Gut Barrier Markers of Caco-2 Cells

Christopher Blesso

COURNEY BROOKE COTE**Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance**

Keeping the National Flood Insurance Program Afloat: Limiting Extreme Losses in the Wake of Climate Change

Advised by: James Trimble

RYAN JAMES CRISANTI**Mechanical Engineering**

Numerical Study of Flame Extinction in Opposed Inverse Diffusion Flames as Applied to Combustor Cooling

Advised by: Baki Cetegen

OLIVIA CHRISTINE CROSBY**General Program in Art**

Making Welcome: Space, Material, and Human Design

Advised by: Ray Dicapua

LIA M. CROWLEY**Psychological Sciences****LUIS E. CRUZ****Political Science**

Hope in the Neoliberal Policy: An Assessment of Mexico's Energy Sector

Advised by: Oksan Bayulgen

KIRANTHEJA R. DAGGULA**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Assessment of the Superior Olive and Other Brain Structures in USH2A HT Mice

Advised by: Roslyn Fitch

GABRIELA ALEXA DAVILA**Nursing**

How Depression Affects a Mother's Perception of Breastfeeding Pain

Advised by: Ruth Lucas

FAY DECKER

Philosophy

The Death of the Auteur

Advised by: Marcus Rossberg

NOAH DEL CORO

Electrical Engineering

High Power Electronic Speed Controller

Integration for Drone Flight Control (NASA)

Advised by: Ashwin Dani

GARRET C. DENARO

History

Minerva and the Capitoline Triad:

A History of Cultural Exchange in Italy

Advised by: Kenneth Gouwens

ELYSSA DENAULT

Allied Health Sciences

Risk of MetS Among Psychiatric

Patients With MDD Treated With Second

Generation Antipsychotics: Role of

Lifestyle Behaviors

Advised by: Bruce Blanchard

CHENGHONG DENG

Molecular & Cell Biology

The Genes in Frog Skin and Their Role

in Evolutionary Innovation

Advised by: Rachel O'Neill

PRANALLY A. DESAI

Physiology & Neurobiology

Modeling selection of voluntary physical

activity in psychiatric disorders: effects of

the SERT inhibitor fluoxetine in rodents

Advised by: John Salamone

JULIA S. DEVINCENZI

Biological Sciences

Approach Biases in People Demonstrating

Problematic Gaming Habits

Advised by: Robert Astur

TYLER J. DIBRINO

Economics

Antitrust Law: An Examination

of Amazon's Dominance

Advised by: Derek Johnson

MASON T. DICICCO

Mathematics

Coupled Stochastic Processes

Advised by: Iddo Ben Ari

ALEXANDER PATRICK DILLON

Marketing

Developing a Sustainable Marketing

Approach for Connecticut Environmental

Action Day

Advised by: Heidi Bailey

SAMANTHA O'BRIEN DION

Physiology & Neurobiology

Changes in Hydration Indices Over

the Course of Heat Acclimation

Advised by: Douglas Casa

ALEC DJORDJEVIC

Chemical Engineering

Hydrodeoxygenation of Guaiacol and

Anisole in the Liquid and Gas Phase

Advised by: Ioulia Valla

TAYLOR N DOOLAN

Allied Health Sciences

Psychological Stressors and Metabolic

Syndrome

Advised by: Bruce Blanchard

JAMILA ROSE DOUGLAS

Psychological Sciences

The Influence of Supportive versus

Restrictive Contact on Cognitive

Development in the Second Year

Advised by: Adam Sheya

ANDREW E. DUBSKY

Political Science

Public Matters? Comparing Decision-

Making by Appointed and Elected

Prosecutors in Cases of Alleged Police

Misconduct in the Hartford Judicial

District and Suffolk County

Advised by: Kimberly Bergendahl

AMELIA BEATRICE ELDRIDGE

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

The Near Certain Minimum Rate:

A New Certainty Equivalence Measure

Advised by: Jeyaraj Vadiveloo

JULIANNA SYLVIA ELMASRI

Health Care Management

The Impact of Obesity on the United

States Economy

Advised by: William Pace

JONATHAN EMERY

Statistics

Development of an Individualized

Recommender System for Music Fixations

Using Last.fm User Data

Advised by: Yuwen Gu

LUIS C ENCINAS

Management

Ethical Dilemmas Surrounding Manufactur-

ing Offshoring: Assessing the Morality of

Offshoring Decisions Through a

Utilitarian Viewpoint

Advised by: Travis Grosser

KAAVIYAN FAEZI

Physics

Changes in the Scattering Phase Shifts

for Partial Waves of Ultracold Particles

at Different Energies

Advised by: Robin Cote

EVAN J. FAULKNER

Electrical Engineering

Uniform Linear Array Implementation

Using Software Defined Radios

Advised by: A Anwar

DIANTE T. FELTON

Management

ISABELLA ELIZABETH FERRANTE

History

Treating the Traumatized: An Analysis

of the Reactions to Shell Shock in Britain

During and After World War I

Advised by: Meredith Rusoff

ALYSSA MARIA FERREIRA

Molecular & Cell Biology

Investigation of Strategies to Improve the

Genome Annotation of Douglas Fir

Advised by: Jill Wegrzyn

SARAH K. FERRIGNO

Psychological Sciences

Therapist Rooms, Personalities and

Approaches

Advised by: Kerry Marsh

KELLY T. FINN

Finance

Financial Implications of the BRI on

the Global Financial System

Advised by: Lingling Wang

LILI FISHMAN

English

Untitled: A Collection of Poems

Advised by: Sean Forbes

MARGARET M. FITZPATRICK

Nursing

Uncovering the Lived Experiences of a

Latina Adolescent Mother during her

Pregnancy

Advised by: Ruth Lucas

MOLLY ANN FITZPATRICK

Nursing

Vicarious Posttraumatic Growth in

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Nurses

Advised by: Cheryl Beck

KAITLYN ELIZABETH FLINT

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Examining the Relationship Between the

Readability and Comprehensibility of

Practice Test Questions and Failure Rates

on Learner's Permit Knowledge Tests

Advised by: Tammie Spaulding

GREGORY MARK FOSS

Computer Science & Engineering

Mobile Application Architecture, Design,

and Implementation for Personal Wardrobe

Management

Advised by: Joseph Johnson

CAITLIN ELISE FOSTER

Biological Sciences

The Genetic Architecture of Pollinator-

Associated Floral Traits in Monkey Flower

Advised by: Yaowu Yuan

KIANA KALILA ANN FOSTER-MAURO
Elementary Education
Mirrors of Our Own: Multiracial Representation in Children's Picture Books
Advised by: Grace Player

MADELINE ELAINE FRENCH
Molecular & Cell Biology
Investigation of Ethics of 23andMe®: Direct-to-consumer Genetic Testing in the Age of the Genetic Revolution
Advised by: Colleen Spurling

THALIA M. FUENTES
Political Science
Analyzing Political Fiction and Human Security
Advised by: Matthew Singer

KAYLA PAIGE FUHST
Music Education
A Study of Teacher Questioning in an Elementary Mathematics Classroom
Advised by: Catherine Little

NICOLE EMMA GAGNON
History
All the Protection a Court can Throw: Buck v. Bell, Skinner v. Oklahoma, and the Persistent Progression of Eugenic Sterilization Laws in the 1930's
Advised by: Melanie Newport

JESSICA GAGNON
Human Development & Family Studies
Campus Activism: Understanding Student Experiences
Advised by: Alaina Brenick

BRIANNA ELIZABETH GAMBACINI
Mathematics
An Introduction to Cryptography and Elliptic Curves
Advised by: Myron Minn-Thu-Aye

DEREK GANCI
Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance
How Wildfires are Impacting the Property Casualty Insurance Industry
Advised by: Daniel Watt

NISHANTH GANESHBABU
Physiology & Neurobiology
Two-Pore-Domain Mechanically Gated Potassium Channels Potentially Responsible for Reversible Conduction Delay in Peripheral Nerve Axons Undergoing Tensile Stretch
Advised by: Bin Feng

JONAH C. GARCIA
General Program in Music
Teaching Practices, Institutional Culture, and Access to Music Learning
Advised by: Cara Bernard

JONAH C. GARCIA
Music Education
Teaching Practices, Institutional Culture, and Access to Music Learning
Advised by: Cara Bernard

MIRANDA ROSE GARCIA
Political Science
Legislating the Birds and the Bees: Evaluating the Effectiveness of State Sexuality Education Mandates
Advised by: Virginia Hettinger

ARIANE BROOKE GARRETT
Biomedical Engineering
A Novel Flow Sensor for Use in a Cerebral Spinal Fluid Shunt
Advised by: Kazunori Hoshino

MADELEINE S. GASTONGUAY
Applied Mathematical Sciences
A Quantitative Pipeline for the Identification of Combinations of Targets for Claudin-Low Triple Negative Breast Cancer Reversion
Advised by: Martha Paola, Vera-Licona

WANJIKU N. GATHERU
Environmental Studies
It's Skin Deep: Anti-Colorism as a Platform for Environmental Education
Advised by: Phoebe Godfrey

JULIA M. GAUL
Philosophy
Real Possibilities: Modality and Responsibility
Advised by: Keith Simmons

ELIZABETH SARAH GEORGE
Elementary Education
Theory of Action for How Teachers Manage Resource Equity in Different Contexts
Advised by: Richard Gonzales

MATTHEW P. GERMOND
Mechanical Engineering
Analysis of the Compressive Response of Aluminum Honeycomb Subjected to Varying Crush Angles
Advised by: Dianyun Zhang

ABOLI GHATPANDE
Pharmacy Studies
A Vaping Epidemic in Youth: Here Is What You Need to Know
Advised by: Fei Wang

ANALYSE HOPE GIORDANO
Allied Health Sciences
Increasing the Longevity of Fully Implantable Continuous Glucose Monitors Using Biocompatible Ceramic Nanoparticles and Nanotexturing
Advised by: Steven Suib

KAYLA GABRIELLA GITLIN
Political Science
The Violence Against Women: Policy Forulation & Implications for Indigenous Survivors; President Trump's Ultimate Deal for Israel-Palestine
Advised by: Matthew Singer

PHILIP ALEXANDER GITMAN
Chemical Engineering
Multi-color Reversible Photochromic Nano-structured Materials
Advised by: Luyi Sun

XIAOFENG GONG
Economics
New Model For Copyright Market Online with Piracy Based on Infringer's Visibility
Advised by: Thomas Miceli

ISABELLA ANNA GORSKI
Nutritional Sciences
Prevalence of Food Insecurity and Correlations with Diet Quality Among Food Pantry Users in Northeastern Connecticut
Advised by: Ock K. Chun

WILLIAM TYLER GOSS
Molecular & Cell Biology
Examining Sex Differences of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva
Advised by: David Goldhamer

ADRIAN GRABOWSKI
Biological Sciences
Intracranial EEG Implants to Explore Neural Mechanisms for Sound Perception and Higher Level Hearing
Advised by: Heather Read

ELIZABETH CAITLIN GRAVES
Chemical Engineering
Regenerative Engineering 3D Models as a Tool for Breast Cancer Research
Advised by: Cato Laurencin

ALEX ROBERT GRECO
Finance
The Effect of Mergers & Acquisitions on the Profitability of Firms in the Banking Sector
Advised by: Paul Gilson

MICHELLE A. GRIECO
Economics
The Economic Factors Underlying U.S. Tort Law's Shortcoming
Advised by: Derek Johnson

ALEXANDRA RAE GRUNER
English
Beyond Twain: How Contemporary African American Authors Use Satire to Talk About Racism
Advised by: Kathy Knapp

CHINANU GINIKA GUBOR

Physiology & Neurobiology

ABHISHEK K. GUPTA

Biological Sciences

Understanding the Genetics of Well-being

Advised by: Theodore Rasmussen

ABHISHEK K. GUPTA

Sociology

MARIAM EZZAT HAFEZ

Biomedical Engineering

Wearable Blood Pressure Device for Detection of Orthostatic Hypotension

Advised by: In Soo Kim

ANNA E HAKEY

Biological Sciences

Evaluating Alternative RNase-free DNase for RNA Extraction

Advised by: Young Tang

CAITRIN HALL

Cognitive Science

Behavioral Attractors During Human-Metronome Phasing Performance

Advised by: Edward Large

DANA KAMAL HAMED

Biomedical Engineering

Mechanical Analysis of In Vitro TBI Models

Advised by: Kazunori Hoshino

VOLETTE A. HANNA

Physiology & Neurobiology

Microglia-Neuron interactions in a mouse model of Low Grade Neuroepithelial Tumors

Advised by: Joseph Loturco

SARAH HARKINS

Nursing

The Impact of Perinatal Anxiety on Maternal Fetal Health: A Review of the Literature and Case Study

Advised by: Christine Rodriguez

BRADY HARMAN

Political Science

It's Oil Downhill From Here: How Oil-Reliant, Autocratic Regimes Transition to Renewable Energy

Advised by: Evan Perkoski

CARSONLEE HARPER

English

Might: Reimagining Medieval Scandinavia Through Historical Fiction

Advised by: Ellen Litman

CARSON LEE HARPER

History

Opting Out of Leviathan: The Viking Diaspora of the Ninth to Eleventh Centuries

Advised by: Sherri Olson

BENJAMIN R. HART

Electrical Engineering

Wireless Motor Sensor

Advised by: John Chandy

NICHOLAS HARTUNIAN

Computer Science

Deep Learning for Fungus Detection

Advised by: Jinbo Bi

KELSEY JEAN HEBERT

Molecular & Cell Biology

Actin Assembly and Microtubule Binding By Formin-1 in Cells and In Vitro

Advised by: Kenneth Campellone

KARA HEILEMANN

Pathobiology

Site-Specific Activation of Antimicrobial Peptides by Proteolytic Cleavage

Advised by: Alfredo Angeles-Boza

ROGER THEODORE HELLARD

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

The Future of Long Term Care Insurance

Advised by: James Trimble

NATHALIA HERNANDEZ

Molecular & Cell Biology

Distinguishing Tetraode Placement in Dorsal and Ventral Hippocampus Using the Microorganism Bacillus Subtilis

Advised by: Etan Markus

KATIE ROSE LOPEZ HILLOWE

Real Estate & Urban Economic

The Rise of Transit Oriented Development

Advised by: Jeffrey Cohen

ZOE ETTINGER HOCHBERG

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

Perceptions of Guilt of Individuals with a Visible Communication Disorder versus an Invisible Communication Disorder

Advised by: Bernard Grela

MATTHEW F. HOPKINSON

Economics

Analysis of Religious Beliefs/Family Values and Food, Income, and Financial Insecurity

Advised by: Nishith Prakash

NICOLE HOREN

Digital Marketing & Analytics

Developing a Sustainable Marketing Approach for CEAD

Advised by: Heidi Bailey

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Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Predicting the Unexpected: Applying Advanced Underwriting to Accurately Predict Early Duration Claims in Life Insurance

Advised by: Jeyaraj Vadiveloo

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Mathematics-Physics

A Theoretical & Monte Carlo Simulation Study of Liquid Crystals

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Athletic Training

The Relationship Between Landing and Running Mechanics

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Political Science

What Does it Take? The Informal Factors that are Conducive to the Passage of a Participatory Amendment

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TUDOR MATEI ILIES

Biomedical Engineering

Development of Sensors for the Analysis of Local Tissue Perfusion During Tissue Resection Procedures Utilizing Tri-Staple Technology

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JUSTIN MICHAEL JAGER

Acting

The Stories I Tell

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Psychological Sciences

How Dynamic Cues Bias Decision-Making for Categorization of Non-Speech Vocalizations

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Biological Sciences

Toxicity Analysis of 2'-Deoxyguanosine-N²-6-Aminopyrene and 2'-Deoxyguanosine-N²-8-Aminopyrene in Escherichia coli

Advised by: Ashis Basu

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Molecular & Cell Biology

Neonatal Scoring System to Predict Patient Health at Two-Year Checkup

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Can Affordable Housing Mitigate the Burden of Student Loan Debt?

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Environmental Factors and Gun Violence in Connecticut

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Presidential Power Couples: Does a Strong First Lady Correlate with a Strong President?

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Inactivation of Salmonella on Chicken Eggs Using Lactic Acid Bacteria

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Individualized: Biodiversity & Visual Media

Watching the Grass Grow: How Soil Moisture Affects Arbuscular-Vesicular Mycorrhizae and Growth in Little Bluestem

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Biomedical Engineering

Employing Finite Element Analysis to Investigate Acromial Stress Fractures Following rTSA Procedure

Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

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Dietetics

Low-Income Parents Identify Barriers to Responsive Feeding Recommendations and Resourcefulness in Feeding their Toddlers: Findings from a Qualitative Study

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Sociology

Gratitude and Spirituality

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Individualized: Neuroscience

Inflammation and Motivation: Effects of the Pro-inflammatory Cytokine Interferon- α in an Animal Model of Motivated Behavior

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Marketing

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

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Biological Sciences

Inhibition of Allosteric Enzymes Conferring Antibiotic Resistance

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Psychological Sciences

Validation of a New Measure of Support of Group Resistance Orientation

Advised by: Felicia Pratto

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Molecular & Cell Biology

Review of Cellular Communication and Quorum Sensing

Advised by: Kathleen Feldman

STEVEN KIM

Linguistics/Philosophy

On Foreign Accents

Advised by: William Snyder Linguistics

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Political Science

The Impact of Location on Healthcare Access for Individuals with Disabilities

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Referential Transparency in Young Children's Picture Books: A Pilot Study

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Behavioral Economic Solutions to the Houston Astros Cheating Scandal

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Narratives of Incarcerated Women: Agency and Form

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The Anti-Proliferative Effects of Novel Anti-Folates on Acute Myeloid Leukemia Cells

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March Like a Girl: A Case Study of the Women's Movements in Spain and the United States

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Applications of Renewable Activated Carbons

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Sociology

Investigating Sexual Assault Prevention Through a Cultural Framework: Perspectives from the University

Advised by: Kristen Cooksey

JENNIFER KOO

Allied Health Sciences

Investigating Sexual Assault Prevention Through a Cultural Framework: Perspectives from the University

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Cognitive Science

Assessing the Morphology of Vesicles in Inhibitory Symmetric Synapses in Safety and Fear Conditions in the Rat Lateral Amygdala

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Physiology & Neurobiology

Exertional Heat Illness' Policies and Procedures: A Pilot Profile of Secondary Schools in the United States

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Thermostability of Prevnar-13 Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

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Molecular & Cell Biology

The Current Standing of Cholangiocarcinoma: A Literature Review

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Reorganization of the Human Ventricular-Subventricular Zone Neural Stem Cell Niche in Fetal-Onset Hydrocephalus

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Sex Differences in Haloperidol-treated and Untreated Rats in Performance on a Novel T-maze Task

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Comparison of the Effectiveness of Different Math Literacy Intervention Programs for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

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An Examination of the Drivers of Sex Trafficking: Sociocultural and Economic Factors

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Language in District School Wellness Policies: How Variability Effects the Implementation of District Regulated Nutrition Practices in Public Schools

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An Analysis of CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing in Agriculture

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Employing Novel Techniques to Capture the Changes in Dynamic Variance Associated with the Adaptation of Healthy Motor Control Strategies

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Relationships Between Auditory Brainstem Response and Timed-Sentence Comprehension

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Attention Bias Variability: Its Stability and Prediction of GAD in a Short-Term Longitudinal Design

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Developing and Optimizing a Novel Model of Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury for Testing Neuroprotective and Neuroregenerative Treatments

Advised by: Feliks Trakhtenberg

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Materials Science & Engineering

Literature Review, Tomographic Mapping, and Dopant Effect Investigation of Perovskite Materials in Optoelectronic Applications

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Insurance for Fertility Treatments

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Farmer Investment Behavior and the State of On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion in the Northeastern U.S.

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A Comparison of Agricultural Developments in Surezha and Tell Leilan

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Gamma Delta T Cell Activation Using Novel Compounds and Natural Product Extracts

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The Effect of New Tax Law to Federal Government

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Predicting the Performance of Very High Pressure Fuel Cells

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Promoting Sustainable Utilization of Groundwater Resources in Ethiopia using the Integrated Groundwater Footprint Index

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Evaluation of a Text Messaging Intervention for Breastfeeding Women Experiencing Breast and Nipple Symptoms

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Gender Differences in Correctional Supervisor Work, Home Demands, and Wellbeing

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Governing a Continent of Trash: The Global Politics of Oceanic Pollution

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Examining Effects of Childhood Maltreatment on Positive Reinforcement Learning and Risk-Taking Behaviors

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Parental Behavior of Black-Backed Woodpeckers in a Post-Fire Forest

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Individualized: Computational Neuroscience

Applying Machine Learning to Neuroimaging Data to Identify Predictive Models of Reading Disorder (RD)

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Doctor of Pharmacy

Exploring the Feasibility of a Virtual Agent in Community Pharmacy

Advised by: Nathaniel Rickles

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Mechanical Engineering

An Assessment of Renewable Energy Technology Implementation in Storrs, Connecticut; Comparisons and Recommendations for a Microgrid System at UConn

Advised by: Ugur Pasaogullari

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Finance

Does FinTech Make the Gambling Industry More Competitive?

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Human Development & Family Studies

Promoting Resilience in Self-Management (PRISM): Adverse Childhood Experiences and Impacts on Emotion Regulation

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Computer Science & Engineering

On the Use of Horizontal Gene Transfers to Date the Microbial Tree of Life

Advised by: Mukul Bansal

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Civil Engineering

Are Ridesourcing Companies Filling Transportation Gaps in Low Income Communities?

Advised by: Norman Garrick

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Finance

A Study of the Green Bond Market and the Potential for U.S. Corporates to Enter as Issuers

Advised by: Michel Rakotomavo

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Dietary Supplementation with the Ketogenic Diet Metabolite Beta-Hydroxy-butyrate (and) Post-TBI Aggression in Young-Adult Male Drosophila (bang-sensitive mutant strains)

Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

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Theory Based and Tailored Dental Messages for Children and Parents: Developing a Framework for a Brief Behavioral Intervention in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings

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Family, Race, and Migration: the Legacy of Eugenic Immigration Policies

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Novel Shunt Sensor for Hydrocephalus

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Maternal Perception of Care in the NICU for Infants diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

Advised by: Xiaomei Cong

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The Impact of Climate Change on the Survival of Food and Water Borne Pathogens

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Locus of Control, Trauma History, and Death Anxiety in Cancer Patients

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Quantifying Atmospheric Air Pollution at the Stamford Transportation Center

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Novel Immunotherapy Ligands through Directional Cloning and a Cyclic Phage Display Model and

Advised by: Andrew Wiemer

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The Association Between Sweet Liking Preference and Little Cigar and Cigarillo Smoking Behaviors and Cigarette Substitutability in Young Adult Dual Users: Differences by Sex

Advised by: Erin Mead

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Statistical Randomness Generation Using Cellular Automaton

Advised by: Walter Krawec

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Diet Quality, Nutritional Adequacy, and Sociodemographic Characteristics among Food Pantry Clients in Northeastern Connecticut

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Community Pharmacists' Knowledge and Perceptions of Prescription Discount-Cards

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Bridge Strengthening: An Insight into the History, Techniques, and Future Improvements Regarding one of the United States' Most Essential Infrastructure Systems

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Preclinical Animal Models for Bone Tissue Engineering: Defect Fixation Device For Rodents

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Implementing a Neural Network to Generate Music

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An Interdisciplinary Approach behind the Pre and Post Effects of the Individual Mandate in the United States HealthCare System

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Brothers as Men: Masculinity, Homosociality, and Men's Violence among Fraternity Men

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Determining Young Children's Accuracy of Using a Motorized Device to Navigate through the Environment

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An Industry on the Rise: Accounting and Auditing of Cannabis

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Generation of Non-Interfering Bessel-Like Beams for Attosecond Transient Absorptive Spectroscopy

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Stoichiometry of Fear: Do Predators Affect the Balance of Carbon and Nitrogen in their Prey?

Advised by: Catherine Matassa

ALEXIS F. MEEHAN**Environmental Studies****SAMUEL THOMAS MENDOLA****Molecular & Cell Biology**

History of Metabolic Pathways in Bacteria and Analysis of Amino Acid Biosynthesis Pathways in Escherichia coli and Haloferax Volcanii

Advised by: Robertson Papke

CHRISTINA ROBIN MIDDENDORF**Animal Science**

Evaluating Factors Affecting Bovine Mastitis in Robotic Milking Herds

Advised by: Sheila Andrew

LEAH MILLER**Electrical Engineering**

Portable, Lightweight Fiber Optic Illuminator

Advised by: Necmi Biyikli

TANYA MILLER**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Assessing a Mouse Model of Post Infectious Hydrocephalus

Advised by: Joanne Conover

FARAZ A. MIRZA**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Resolving the Mechanism of Specificity in Neurodevelopmental Disorders using Proximity Labeling

Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

AKRITI MISHRA**Psychological Sciences**

How Parental Attitudes and Behaviors Toward Math Influence Math Performance and Math Anxiety Levels in Hearing, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Students

Advised by: Marie Coppola

MICHAELA ROSE MITCHELL**Animal Science**

Effects of Restricted Maternal Nutrition and Realimentation During Gestation on the Fetal Progenitor Cell Population in Semitendinosus Muscle of Sheep

Advised by: Sarah Reed

MAGDALENE EVA MLYNEK**Statistics**

Robust Variance Estimation to Model Complex Meta-Analytic Structures in Post-Exercise Hypotension

Advised by: Elizabeth Schifano

MAGDA MOCARSKA**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Characterization of the Muscle Injury Environment in WT and FOP -The Role of the Immune System

Advised by: David Goldhamer

ABEER MOHAMED**Psychological Sciences**

How Parental Attitudes and Behaviors toward Math Influence Math Performance and Math Anxiety Levels in Hearing, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Students

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ALANA B. MOORE**Physiology & Neurobiology**

The Effect of Chronic Dopamine Receptor 2 Blockade as a Possible Model of Secondary Negative Symptoms

Advised by: John Salamone

KATHARINE MORRIS**Anthropology**

Cross Cultural Engagement and Intersectional Activism Among University of Connecticut Affiliates

Advised by: Dimitrios Xygalatas

ANDREW S. MORRISON**English**

Incentivized Learning and Libraries: A Comparative Study of Summer Reading Programs in Connecticut

Advised by: Cathy Schlund-Vials

ANDREW S. MORRISON**Economics**

Incentivized Learning and Libraries: A Comparative Study of Summer Reading Programs in Connecticut

Advised by: Talia Bar

MARIA CRISTINA MURLJACIC**Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences**

Intersection of Musical Ability and Accent Imitation

Advised by: Emily Myers

MARIA CRISTINA MURLJACIC**General Program in Music**

Intersection of Musical Ability and Accent Imitation

Advised by: Eric Rice

HIMAJA NAGIREDDY**Sociology**

Assessment of Household Electricity Load in Rural Ethiopian Communities to Design a Social SCADA Approach for Building a Renewable Energy-based Microgrid Model

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HIMAJA NAGIREDDY**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Optimization of CRISPR/Cas12a Editing and Homology Directed Repair in Human iPSCs

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Role of Glial Lactate Dehydrogenase in Ketone Body Effects Function on Induced Seizures in a Drosophila Model

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Stock Buybacks and the Intentions of Executives

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From War to Civilian Life: Evaluation of Integration Policies for Urban Refugees in Amman, Jordan

Advised by: Jennifer Sterling-Folker

SUSAN NASERI**Human Rights**

From War to Civilian Life: Evaluation of Integration Policies for Urban Refugees in Amman, Jordan

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NEHAL NAVALI**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Assembly and Identification of Feather Degrading Bacteria and the Detection of Keratinase Genes

Advised by: Sarah Hird

AMY N. NELSON**Molecular & Cell Biology**

The Enterobacter Hormaechei 3,4-dihydroxyphenylacetate 2,3-dioxygenase and Inner Membrane Protein YjcH Modulate the Induction of Cryptococcus Neoformans Melanization

Advised by: Joerg Graf

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The Effects of the Atypical Dopamine Uptake Inhibitor CE-158 on Extracellular Dopamine Levels in the Nucleus Accumbens

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Identifying Gait Biomarkers to Detect Neurodegenerative Disorders

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ADRIENNE Q. NGUYEN**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Relationship between Internalizing Problems and Internet Gaming Disorder Symptoms Among Treatment-Seeking Youth

Advised by: Kristyn Zajac

CYRENE NICHOLAS**Physiology & Neurobiology**

Assessing the Effect of Chronic Dopamine Receptor 2 Blockade as a Potential Model of Secondary Negative Symptoms in Rats Using the FR5/chow Feeding Choice Task

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GRACE C. NICHOLS**Molecular & Cell Biology**

Behavioral and Electrophysiological Detection of Tinnitus in CBA/CaJ Mice

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Comparison of Deltoid Muscle Activity During Forward and Lateral Adduction Using AnyBody and EMG Analysis

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Intellectual Property in STEM: it's Trajectory and Importance

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Assessing Student Knowledge of Vaping

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Nursing

Understanding the Experience of Parents Utilizing Car Bed Travel

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Intersections between Solar Energy Conversion and Biomedicine: the Photo-physics of Upconversion and Intersystem Crossing in Protein Biomaterials

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Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Development of Investment Strategies for New College Graduates

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Allied Health Sciences

The Effect of Small or Large Changes in Diet and Physical Activity on Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and C-Reactive Protein Levels

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Physics

Quantification of Tidal Compression of Gas Clouds Located in the Center of the Milky Way

Advised by: Cara Battersby

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Biomedical Engineering

An Analysis of the Mechanical Properties of Surgical Sutures in Static and Cyclic Loading Conditions for the Application of a Novel Treatment of High Ankle Sprains

Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Perczak

IREOLUWATOMIWA AYOMIDE

OPAYEMI

Molecular & Cell Biology

*Horizontal Gene Transfer and SNARE-like Proteins in *Haloferax Volcanii**

Advised by: Colleen Spurling

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Physiology & Neurobiology

Analyzing Converging Auditory Projections to the Lateral Amygdala Using Electron Microscopy: An Anterograde Double-Labeling Study

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Biomedical Engineering

Machine Learning-Based Classification of Antisense Efficacy

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Pharmacy Studies

The Benefit of Interprofessional Education Between Pharmacy and Medical Students in Migrant Farm Workers Clinics

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Designing a Research Model for Congenital Post Infectious Hydrocephalus

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Letitia Elizabeth Landon's "Lines of Life:" An Interactive Web Experience

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Pathobiology

*Investigating In Vivo and In Vitro Virulence of a *Mycoplasma Pneumoniae* Mutant*

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Molecular & Cell Biology

How Well Do Adolescents Understand the Nutrition Facts Label and the Association to Body Mass Index and Household Income

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The Impact of Hydration on the Relationship between Estrogen and Copeptin in the Follicular Phase

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Physiology & Neurobiology

Quantification of VGLUT2-positive Nerve Endings in the Colorectum by Optical Tissue Clearing Following Intracolonic TNBS Treatment

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Mechanical Engineering

Microneedle Fabrication Using Tilted and Rotational UV Lithography

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Biomedical Engineering

Analyzing Forces and Moments at the Ankle Joint Using a Force Platform and EMG Sensors to Determine Load Bearing on Ligaments in the Ankle.

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Supplements That Affect Cortisol Concentrations During High Intensity Exercise

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Stock Price Responses to SEC Insider Trading Charges by Industry

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Individualized: Crime, Law & Gender

The Relationship between Gender and Implicit Bias in Dual Arrest Laws

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Data Modeling Gene Expressions

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Evaluating the Creative Process and Identifying Best Practices of External Project-based Learning on Undergraduate Design Students

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Quality of Conversations Related to Aphasia Rehabilitation

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Inflated Bond Ratings Persist - An Analysis of Current Bond Ratings Practices and A Regulation Reform Solution

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Retirement Readiness

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Individualized:

Mass Shootings in the U.S.: Qualitative Analysis of Cases Brought Versus Not Brought to Court

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Biological Sciences

Examining the Effect of Dopamine Transport Inhibitor Lisdexamfetamine on Effort-Related Choice Behavior Using Mouse Touchscreen Procedures

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Examination of Online Accommodation Information for College Students with Disabilities in New England

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Data Analytics for Computational Manufacturing Design

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Relation Between Aged Bone Marrow Neutrophils Present in Sick Cell Diseased Mice and Osteoblast Function

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Microbes and Their Role in Sustainable Agriculture

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Physiology & Neurobiology

Understanding the Role of Minor Spliceosome in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

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Beliefs and Experiences of Patient-Centered Pain Management among Individuals with Chronic Pain and Health Care Providers

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Understanding Baseline Genomic Instability in Leiomyosarcoma to Improve Chemotherapeutic Strategies

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40 Acres and a Mule: Homesteads, Confiscation, and Federal Failure

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Temporal Localization of Video Topics Using the YT8M Dataset

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The NCAA and Amateurism: A Sociological, Financial, and Legal Overview

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The Relationship between Food Insecurity and Health Status in Food Pantry Visitors

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Treatment Effects of Modafinil for Cocaine Use Disorders: A Retrospective Analysis of Aggregated Clinical Trial Data From Three Cocaine Treatment Studies

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Beginning Teachers' Ability to Practice Ambitious Instruction in Elementary Mathematics: Resources that Enable and Prevent Ambitious Teaching

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An Archaeological Study of Human Hunting Adaptations to Climate Change at Wadi Madamagh, Jordan

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Comparative Skeletal Muscle Transcriptome Responses to 3 Hours of Exercise in Elite Ultraendurance Athletes on Low- and High-Carbohydrate Diets

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Individualized: Health Policy in Sport
The Influence of Environmental Monitoring Policies at the State Level on Local High School Adoption

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Market Reaction to the Level of Detail in Initial Earnings Calls

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Methylphenidate, Dopamine, and Interferon-alpha: Examining the Ability of a Dopamine Transport Blocker to Reverse the Amotivational Effects of Systemic Inflammation

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Biological Sciences

The Correlation Between Physiological Brain Volume and Behavioral Phenotype in the Shank3B Mutant Mouse Model of Autism

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Auditing in the Automation Revolution: A Changing Profession

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Individualized: Data Science

Predicting the Outcomes of Soccer Games

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Physiology & Neurobiology
Minor Intron Identification in Eukaryotic Genomes

Advised by: Rahul Kanadia

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Pathobiology

Immunophenotyping of the Tumor Microenvironment: An Immunohistochemical and Flow Cytometric Analysis of Canine Mast Cell Tumors as a Model for Human Cancer

Advised by: Lawrence Silbart

SAMANTHA L. SEIBEL
Molecular & Cell Biology

Examining Menstruating Female Adolescents' Exposure to Sexual and Reproductive Health Education in Connecticut

Advised by: Sharon Smith

JESSICA MARIE SERRAO
Allied Health Sciences

Using the ADAPT-ITT Model to Implement a Low Impact Health Behavior Intervention for Adolescents in Two School Based Settings

Advised by: Valerie Duffy

MADELYN M. SEVERSON
Biological Sciences

Using Genetically Modified Cell Lines to Study CENP-A Activity

Advised by: Rachel O'Neill

TWISHA ANKUR SHAH
Molecular & Cell Biology

Senescence: A Complex and Mysterious Pathway

Advised by: Mary Bruno

MARIA SHAH
Political Science

Just Another Pipe Dream: Water Privatization in Pakistan

Advised by: Elizabeth Hanson

KEYUR SHAH
Computer Science & Engineering

Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Vehicle Coordination

Advised by: Fei Miao

MIA K. SHALLCROSS
English

*The Daring Damsel and the Domestic: An Analysis of the Fall of Traditional Domesticity through the Lens of Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games* Trilogy*

Advised by: Victoria Smith

MIA K. SHALLCROSS

Political Science

An Analysis of the Correlation between Young Adult Voting and the Popularity of Dystopian Fiction in the United States/ A Comparative Analysis of Multinational Human Security for Women

Advised by: Matthew Singer

THOMAS SHAO

Physiology & Neurobiology

Using Machine Learning to Conduct a Detailed Behavioral Analysis in an Appetitive Social Learning Task

Advised by: Etan Markus

UTSAV RUPALKUMAR SHETH

Chemistry

Introducing alterations to the controlled radical polymerization of vinylidene fluoride and the synthesis of PVDF block copolymers. (Subject to change)

Advised by: Alexandru Asandei

BENJAMIN SHMASE

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Analytics in Baseball

Advised by: James Trimble

YASMINE M. SHWAYHAT

Management

The Recovery Files: An Original Text-Based Game

Advised by: Kevin Thompson

ELIZABETH SILVER

Molecular & Cell Biology

Effect of MELK Inhibitor OTS167 in Combination with Chemo and Targeted Therapies in Triple-negative Breast Cancer

Advised by: Spencer Nyholm

DANIEL J. SILVERSTEIN

Molecular & Cell Biology

Contributions of gyrA and parC Mutations and qnrS2 Acquisition to Ciprofloxacin Resistance in Aeromonas veronii Hm21

Advised by: Joerg Graf

RAHUL SINDVANI

Physiology & Neurobiology

Mesoscale Calcium Reveals Role of KCNQ2 Pathogenic Mutations in Subcortical Areas

Advised by: Anastsious Tzingounis

SAUMYA A. SINGH

Chemical Engineering

Numerical Analysis on the Black Scholes PDE

Advised by: Matthew Stuber

EKATERINA SKARITANOV

Physiology & Neurobiology

ETS-Domain Transcriptional Activator Pnt and its Endogenous Inhibitor Yan Control Spatiotemporal Expression of Mmp2 for Follicle Rupture in Late Oogenesis

Advised by: Jianjun Sun

JUSTIN MATTHEW SLIFER

Mathematics/Statistics

Reconciling Discrepancies in the Relationship between Children's Understanding of Number Words and their Receptive Vocabulary

Advised by: Marie Coppola

HANNAH SMITH

History

Women, Gender and the Bracero Program, 1942-1964

Advised by: Michele Mcelya

MAIFRAK JAILANE SOBRINO

Nursing

Comparison of Attitudes, Knowledge and Beliefs on Marijuana in Undergraduate Nursing Students Compared to Non-Nursing Students

Advised by: Ruth Lucas

ELIZABETH ANNE SOHA

Mechanical Engineering

Automation and Parameterization of Electromagnetic Inductive Coil Computational Model

Advised by: Julian Norato Escobar

LAUREN SORANNO

Animal Science

The Effects of Poor Maternal Nutrition During Gestation on Ewe and Offspring Plasma Concentrations of Leptin and Ghrelin

Advised by: Sarah Reed

KRISTEN AMELIA SPLAINE

Allied Health Sciences

Pre-Exercise Hydration Status of Females Throughout the Menstrual Cycle

Advised by: Douglas Casa

CAITLYN ANNE SPLAINE

Animal Science

Poor Maternal Nutrition during Gestation Alters Placental IGF-I, IGF-II, and IGFBP-3 mRNA Expression in Sheep

Advised by: Sarah Reed

KATHLEEN R. STANGO

Political Science

Examining Feminist Analyses of the Domestic Sphere of Armed Conflict

Advised by: Matthew Singer

ERIC JAMES STASSEN

Mathematics

Fourier Analysis Applications to the Black-Scholes Equation

Advised by: Vasileios Chousionis

MEGAN E. STEVENS

Biomedical Engineering

Finite Element Analysis for Mammogram Compression Using Various Paddle Designs and Breast Densities

Advised by: Krystyna Gielo-Periczak

HUNTER ANDREW STUART

Biomedical Engineering

Exploring Clinical and Research Oriented Uses for 3D Printed Products

Advised by: Yupeng Chen

RACHEL SULLIVAN

Political Science

Is Villainy Written in the Star (Wars)? How Father Figures Led Characters to and from the Dark Side

Advised by: Stephen Dyson

OLIVIA MAGDALENA SYKES

Urban & Community Studies

Do Teens Want to be Cops? Assessing Teenagers' Perspectives on the Police

Advised by: Edith Barrett

SERAPHIN TALA

Political Science

Analysis of Black Feminist Theory Texts and Applied Analysis of Democratic Institution Theory

Advised by: Matthew Singer

SHIRA ESTHER TALL

Human Rights

Holocaust Education in Connecticut: The Passing and Implementation of Senate Bill No. 452

Advised by: Alan Marcus

BENTON MITCHELL TARALA

Human Development & Family Studies

Exploring the Relationship between Identity and Clinically Diagnosed Anxiety and Depression in College Students: A Descriptive Quantitative Approach

Advised by: Kari Adamsons

SARA TAVAKOLI

Molecular & Cell Biology

Investigation of Bone Loss in Sickle Cell Disease Male Mice

Advised by: Liping Xiao

JAMES HARRISON TERRAY

Biological Sciences

Youths' Perceptions and Use of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems

Advised by: Juliet Lee

LAURYN ELIZABETH TETREAULT

Allied Health Sciences

Association between Socioeconomic Status, Health Literacy, and Mothers' Perceived Credibility of Sources of Information about Childhood Nutrition

Advised by: Molly Waring

PRIYANKA THAKKAR

Management Information Systems

Application of Technical Solutions for the Betterment of Student and Campus Life

Advised by: Craig Calvert

RACHEL ELIZABETH THATCHER
Chemical Engineering

MARISSA J. THILL
Management & Engineering for Manufacturing
Trailer Yard Management in the FMCG Industry Case Study: Hostler Efficiency Enhancement at Frito Lay Inc.
Advised by: Jiong Tang

SEAN-HECTOR TOLAND MATOS
Economics
On Money and Health: Impact of Government Programs on Senior Citizens
Advised by: Kenneth Couch

MATTHEW CESARE TOMEI
Biomedical Engineering
Degradation of HPP-modified Glycol Chitosan Hydrogel by Lysozyme
Advised by: Lakshmi Nair

ARIANNA M. TSIKITAS
History
A Flexible Social Construct: American Whiteness, the Radical Right, and the 1968 Presidential Election
Advised by: Mark Healey

RENUKANANDAN TUMU
Computer Science
Conductor: An Orchestration Platform for Multi-Vehicle Autonomous Car Experiments
Advised by: Fei Miao

JONATHAN URSILLO
Environmental Sciences
Water Quality Elicitation and Valuation
Advised by: Charles Towe

JOSEPH R. VALENTI
Allied Health Sciences
Biodegradable Amino Acid Polymers for Controlled Drug Delivery
Advised by: Gregory Sotzing

CHRISTINA VALERA
Physiology & Neurobiology
KCNQ2 Localization in the Brainstem
Advised by: Anastasios Tzingounis

HANNAH J. VAN BERGEN
Animal Science
The Effects of Poor Maternal Nutrition on Lipid Accumulation in Offspring Muscle Tissue
Advised by: Kristen Govoni

MORGAN VAN LIEW
Finance
Does Changing Investor Sentiment Drive ESG Performance?
Advised by: Alexander Amati

MOLLY A. VANLULING
Molecular & Cell Biology
Sex Differences in Mouse NAD⁺ Metabolism
Advised by: Ji-Young Lee

TYRA TUJARRA PATRINA VANRIEL
Nutritional Sciences
Jamaican Food Beliefs and Practices: Exploring Health Interventions & Implications
Advised by: Pamela Erickson

FERNANDA SULANTAY VARGAS
Chemical Engineering
Theoretical Foundation of Solute Evaporation in Porous Media: Effect of Microstructure and Solute Interactions
Advised by: Leslie Shor

MIRA VARMA
Physics
A Consistent Classical Relativistic Model of a Finite Size Particle
Advised by: Peter Schweitzer

JASMINE VAZQUEZ
Molecular & Cell Biology
Physiological Characteristics of UC1MT, An Anti-Metallothionein Monoclonal Antibody
Advised by: Michael Lynes

RAVEN VELLA
Structural Biology/Biophysics
Categorization of Esophageal and Gastric Cancers
Advised by: Charles Giardina

JOHN VELLEK
Chemistry
Organic Synthesis of Polymers for Use in High-Temperature Electronics
Advised by: Gregory Sotzing

CAITLIN R. VELLIOS
Nursing
Investigating the Benefits and Perceptions of Reminiscence in a Residential Home Sample: A Feasibility Study
Advised by: Juliette Shellman

MAI VESTERGAARD
General Program in Music
Bach-to Ysaÿe: Performance and History of Sonata No. 2
Advised by: Jesus Ramos-Kittrell

ANDREW MICHAEL VILCINSKAS
Doctor of Pharmacy
Assessment of Insulin-Blood Glucose Management in College Students with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
Advised by: Marissa Salvo

MADELINE ANNE VITALE
Nursing
Evaluation of Cognitive Interventions for CNS-related Cancers in the Pediatric Population
Advised by: Angela Starkweather

MARY F. VLAMIS
Economics
“Bad Hombres” and the Bully Pulpit: A Study of Presidential Rhetoric and Reactionary Behaviors of the Immigrant Population
Advised by: Jorge Aguero

ZACHARY WAHRMAN
Computer Science
Intelligent System for Suggesting Sample Comparisons
Advised by: Dong Shin

MATTHEW DANIEL WAN
Molecular & Cell Biology
PI3K and Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells
Advised by: Archana Sanjay

SHERYL WANG
Digital Media & Design
A Little Too Real
Advised by: Anna Lindemann

JUDIE ZHEN WANG
Biological Sciences
The Effect of the Ketogenic Diet Metabolite Beta-Hydroxybutyrate on Brain Neurochemistry following Traumatic Brain Injury in Drosophila
Advised by: Geoffrey Tanner

JOSEPH WARMUS
Computer Science & Engineering
Reaction Time-Limited Reinforcement Learning for 2D Fighting Games
Advised by: Yufeng Wu

ALLY WATSON
Molecular & Cell Biology
Enterobacter Hormaechei Transcription Factors TyrR and DksA Affect its Ability to Induce Melanin Production in Cryptococcus Neoformans
Advised by: Joerg Graf

SAMUEL LOUIS WEINBERG
Chemical Engineering
Solving Partial Differential Equations with Parallel Algorithms and Graphics Processing Units
Advised by: Matthew Stuber

BRENDAN MICHAEL WELLER
Finance
CLOs: A Nightmarish Scenario Ahead?
Advised by: Alexander Amati

TARA R. WHITE

Marketing

Developing a Sustainable Marketing Approach for CEAD

Advised by: Heidi Bailey

ALYSSA M. WILLIAMS

Allied Health Sciences

Adherence to Papanicolaou Test Guidelines and Knowledge of HPV and Cervical Cancer in UConn Students

Advised by: Denis Coble

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

SYDNEY C. WIMBERLEY

Chemical Engineering

Engineering 3D Liquid Crystalline Biomaterial Scaffolds, and Investigating Cellular Behavior

Advised by: Kelly Burke

TETIANA MARIE WINIARSKYJ

English

*Wild English: Multilingualism and Untranslatability in Nabokov's *Invitation to a Beheading**

Advised by: Yohei Igarashi

JORDYN ANNE WITKINS

Nursing

Comparison of Attitudes, Knowledge and Beliefs on Marijuana in Undergraduate Nursing Students Compared to Non-Nursing Students

Advised by: Ruth Lucas

WUN J. WONG

Linguistics/Psychology

Phonological Development in Children with Cochlear Implants

Advised by: Diane Lillo-Martin

TRAVIS WONG

Computer Science & Engineering

Defining a Protocol that Prevents Collaboration Between Devices in an IoT Network

Advised by: Amir Herzberg

VARUN YETUKURI

Mechanical Engineering

Computational Fluid Dynamics Analysis of a Simple Impeller in ANSYS

Advised by: Tianfeng Lu

SARA J. ZAMBELLI

Political Science

Latin American Immigration: Through the Eyes of Women

Advised by: Christine Sylvester

PEIYI ZHANG

Mathematics-Actuarial-Finance

Evaluating the Cost of a Lapse in Life Insurance and its Implications on Developing a Policyholder Retention Strategy for a Company

Advised by: Jeyaraj Vadiveloo

TERRANCE ZHANG

Molecular & Cell Biology

Rapid Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing Platform for Direct Clinical Samples

Advised by: Joerg Graf

KARINA S. ZHAO

Accounting

The Implications of Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting: How its Integration into the Fashion Industry is Driving Ethical and Sustainable Progress

Advised by: Ying Zhou

IZABELA ZUBRZYCKA

Biological Sciences

Anxiety Contagion: Short-Term Physiological Impact of Interpersonal Stressor between Best Friends

Advised by: Kimberli Treadwell

VICTORIA ANNA ZYSK

Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences

The Effect of Sleep-based Memory Consolidation on Adaptation to Noise Vcoded Speech

Advised by: Rachel Theodor

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*.

CAITLIN ELISE FOSTER*

Biological Sciences

The Genetic Architecture of Pollinator-Associated Floral Traits in Monkey Flowers

Advised by: Yaowu Yuan, Pamela Diggle, Bernard Goffinet

*The goal of this project is to investigate the underlying genetic architecture controlling the characteristic floral trait differences between two species of closely related monkeyflowers, *Mimulus parishii* and *Mimulus cardinalis*. This project focuses on differences in flower color and size of different floral structures, such as pistil length and stamen length. Understanding the genetic causes of these differences can help develop the understanding of speciation and diversification of the more than 300,000 flowering plant species.*

ANALYSE HOPE GIORDANO*

Allied Health

Increasing the Longevity of Fully Implantable Continuous Glucose Monitors Using Biocompatible Ceramic Nanoparticles and Nanotexturing

Advised by: Steven Suib, Valerie Duffy, Jessica Rouge

Diabetes Mellitus is one of the top ten deadliest diseases in the nation, affecting the body's ability to release insulin and regulate blood glucose (BG) levels. BG levels can become difficult to manually monitor and regulate without continuous data. While continuous glucose monitors (CGMS) are a widely available solution to this issue, these monitors are only FDA approved in the body for one year due to biofouling. This project will explore the effects of nanotexturing on bioceramics in order to increase the longevity of these devices in the body. Through nanotexturing techniques, CGM casings will mimic the texture of human bone and will be less susceptible to biofouling caused by macrophage fibrous encapsulation.

CARSONLEE HARPER*

English and History

Reimagining Medieval Scandinavia Through Historical Fiction

Advised by: Ellen Litman, Sherri Olson, Frederick Biggs

Vikings have been a fascinating subject for both fictional works and historical research for many years, their raiding escapades and rich mythology find its way into our books, movies, and TV shows time and time again. This project aims to write a historical fiction novel that not only captures what we have found so captivating about these Medieval Scandinavian inhabitants in the past but also explores the world of women and children that is underrepresented much of

the time. CarsonLee hopes to combine immersive story-telling with factual historical evidence in my book as she explore themes of gender, sacrifice, justice, and religion as they relate to both average and extraordinary examples of the Scandinavian people.

DANIEL YU

Exercise Science

Mechanisms of Statin Effects on Muscle and Neuronal Proteostasis

Advised by: Eliane Lee, Theodore Rasmussen, Beth Taylor

*Cardiovascular diseases are among the leading cause of death in the United States. Statins, a cholesterol lowering drug, are used by over 43 million Americans to treat cardiovascular diseases. Statins target the mevalonate pathway to regulate cholesterol, but indirectly also regulate lipoprotein signaling. The indirect effects on lipoproteins may increase susceptibility to protein tissue and muscle damage. This project will use *Caenorhabditis elegans* to test whether statin treatment will cause muscle and neuronal damage during aging and stress, and discover statin molecular mechanisms by using RNAi to knockdown components of the mevalonate signaling pathway.*

MARLENE ABOUAASSI*

Molecular & Cell Biology and Sociology

Study of Putative Niche Adapting Operon in Microbes Inhabiting the Gut of Blood Digesting Animals

Advised by: J. Peter Gogarten, Joerg Graf, Simon Cheng

Marlene's work focuses on examining the sialic acid utilization gene operon, which facilitates survival and propagation of bacteria in the presence of erythrocytes. She aims to examine how gene acquisition allows specific bacterial lineages to utilize sialic acid as an alternate source of carbon and nitrogen.

LUKE SIGURD ANDERSON*

Anthropology and Nutritional Sciences

Cultural Food Habits as a Social Factor of Health Among Immigrants in New Haven, Connecticut: A Focused Ethnographic Study

Advised by: Pamela Erickson, Michael Puglisi, Kathryn Libal

Diet-related health disparities are well documented in immigrant populations. This study aims to help better inform nutrition interventions. It did so by working with members of the community to explore their perceptions of the nutrition of the food they eat and relate it to how this food is grounded in their cultural identity and social belonging.

SARAH GRACE ARNETT*

Cognitive Science and Speech, Language, & Hearing Sciences

Evaluating the Verbal Language Use of People with Aphasia in Non-Clinical Settings: A Feasibility Study using LENA Technology

Advised by: Jennifer Mozeiko, Carl Coelho, Nairan Ramirez-Esparza

Sarah's project investigates the reliability of the self-perception of language use in people with aphasia (PWA), who have language deficits following a stroke. By comparing conversational data collected from participants' home environments to rating scale responses, the project investigates the accuracy of PWA's estimates of their language use.

THOMAS GARDINER CHESSMAN*

Mechanical Engineering

Feedback Control in Selective Laser Sintering through use of Thermal Imaging

Advised by: Chih-Jen Sung, Tai-Hsi Fan, Song Han

Selective laser sintering (SLS) is a pioneering additive manufacturing technique that involves using a laser to melt powdered material together, layer by layer, in order to create a 3-D product. This project investigates improving final product quality through use of feedback control based on thermal image analysis of the manufacturing process.

KLARITA DOCI

Physiology & Neurobiology

Temperature Regulates the Properties of KCNQ2/KCNQ3 Channels

Advised by: Anastasios Tzingounis, Daniel Mulkey, Randall Walikonis

KCNQ potassium channels, expressed in the brain, play an important role in controlling neuronal hyper excitability. Mutations in these channels have shown to cause epilepsy as well as some symptoms of autism. We found that biophysical properties of KCNQ2/3 channels depend on temperature.

CHELSEA MARIE GARCIA

Nutritional Sciences

The Effect of Bacterial Lipid 654 on Regulation of Pathways Related to Neuroinflammation and Energy Balance

Advised by: Christopher Blesso, Ji-Young Lee, Michael Puglisi

Chelsea's project tested the effects of Lipid 654, a fat product of gut bacteria, on neuroinflammation in mice. Chronic injection of Lipid 654 has

continued

lowered inflammation in the liver and the development of heart disease in mice. However, the same injections did not have protective effects in the brain, and the differences should be explored further.

ARIANE BROOKE GARRETT*
Biomedical Engineering

Development of A Novel Flow Sensor for Use in a Cerebral Spinal Fluid Shunt

Advised by: Kazunori Hoshino, Sabato Santaniello, Gustavo Nanclores

In this project, a novel flow sensor for use in a cerebral spinal fluid shunt was developed. The device has the capacity to provide patients and doctors with a greater understanding of shunt function after implantation. The device was tested and was able to measure the desired flow rates between 20ml/hr and 120ml/hr.

KARA HEILEMANN*
Pathobiology and Nutritional Sciences
Proteolytic Activation of Antimicrobial Peptides

Advised by: Alfredo Angeles-Boza, Paulo Verardi, Yangchao Luo

*Antimicrobial resistance is a global concern, and antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) are a potential solution due to their ability to kill a wide range of bacteria. In this project, a novel pro-drug AMP was engineered to overcome toxicity to human cells through site-specific activation by an enzyme secreted from the pathogen *Staphylococcus aureus*.*

SAURABH KUMAR*
Molecular & Cell Biology and Statistics
Reorganization of the Human Ventricular-Subventricular Zone Neural Stem Cell Niche in Fetal-Onset Hydrocephalus

Advised by: Joanne Conover, David Goldhamer, Thomas Peters, and Elizabeth Schifano
This project investigated how developmental patterns in the Ventricular-Subventricular Zone (V-SVZ) stem cell niche within the brain are affected during fetal-onset hydrocephalus. By analyzing archival human brain tissue and MRI scans, this project aimed to provide enhanced tools for neurosurgeons diagnosing and treating hydrocephalus.

EMMALYN GRACE LECKY*
Biological Sciences and Psychological Sciences
Developing a Novel Model of Blast-Induced Traumatic Brain Injury

Advised by: Ephraim Trakhtenberg, Joanne Conover, Ian Stevenson

Blast-induced traumatic brain injury (bTBI) is a leading cause of military head injuries and can have devastating, life-long consequences. bTBI involves a disruption and disconnection of axons, which are projections of neurons. This project developed a novel model of bTBI for use in investigating new treatments to regenerate or protect axons.

DANIEL MCCLOSKEY*
Anthropology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Brothers as Men: Masculinity, Homosociality, and Violence Among Fraternity Men

Advised by: François Dussart, Pamela Erickson, Daisy Reyes
This project was a study of fraternity men that included 55 interviews and was concerned primarily with how participants understood gender, masculinity and femininity, homosociality (the phenomenon of single-gendered social groupings), and sexual violence.

SUSAN NASERI*
Political Science and Human Rights
From War to Civilian Life: Evaluation of Integration Policies for Urban Refugees in Amman, Jordan

Advised by: Kathryn Libal, Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Cathy Schlund-Vials

In the context of the Syrian refugee crisis, this project addresses how countries without encampment are integrating refugees into their society. This project asks how the policies in Jordan are contributing to the integration of its urban refugees, and what the particular challenges and limits to freedom are, as well as which rights are realized.

GRACE NICHOLS*
Molecular & Cell Biology
Detection of Tinnitus in CBA/CaJ Mice Using the Active Avoidance Shuttle Box Test

Advised by: Douglas Oliver, Charles Giardina, Monty Escabi

Tinnitus is a neurological condition that involves the perception of a ringing or buzzing sound in the ears that is not physically present. Tinnitus can negatively impact quality of life, and unfortunately, there is no cure for the condition. This project evaluates the effectiveness of tinnitus induction and the presence of tinnitus in mice.

ALEXANDER MICHAEL ODDO*
Chemistry
The Design of Bio-derived Solar Technology: Coupling Protein Hydrogels to Light Harvesting Upconversion Systems

Advised by: Challa Kumar, Tomoyasu Mani, Gael Ung

Since solar cells cannot harvest red sunlight efficiently, a phenomenon, called "upconversion," may increase solar cell efficiency by converting the wasted red light into more readily-harvestable blue light. This project was a success and resulted in the invention of a protein solar film capable of sustaining efficient upconversion.

KATHLEEN E RENNA*
Diagnostic Genetic Sciences
Evaluation of Integrin Gene Expression Profiles Toward Understanding Retinal Ganglion Cell Subtype Biology

Advised by: Ephraim Trakhtenberg, Judy Brown, Kenneth Campellone

Retinal ganglion cells (RGCs) in the human eye are thought to have differences in gene expression that relate to their unique functions, an area of study termed subtype biology. The goal of this project was to determine if the gene expression of integrins, molecules that guide axon extension from the cell body, was also RGC subtype specific.

SRISHTI SADHIR*
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology and Anthropology
An Archaeological Study of Human Hunting Adaptations at Wadi Madamagh, Jordan during the Last Glacial Maximum

Advised by: Natalie Munro, Richard Sosis, Susan Herrick

This project examined human hunting strategies at the archaeological site of Wadi Madamagh (Last Glacial Maximum; 26,500-19,000 years ago) using zooarchaeological methods and a human behavioral ecology framework. Overall, the faunal remains (animal bones and teeth) suggest repeated, light occupations of the site over the course of millennia.

EKATERINA SKARITANOV*
Physiology & Neurobiology
ETS-domain transcriptional activator Pnt and its endogenous inhibitor Yan control spatiotemporal expression of Mmp2 for follicle rupture in late oogenesis

Advised by: Jianjun Sun, Barbara Mellone, Akiko Nishiyama

*Mmp2 is an enzyme required for ovulation in *Drosophila* and mammals. Ekaterina thus proposes a mechanism for the roles of the transcriptional regulators Pnt and Yan in determining the timing and localization of Mmp2 in the *Drosophila* egg chambers. She concludes that proper expression of both factors in late oogenesis is required for ovulation.*

Honors Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipient



Judy Brown, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Director, M.S. Degree in Health Care Genetics, School of Nursing

Dr. Brown has a PhD in Genetics and Genomics from the University of Connecticut. She has certifications in Cytogenetics and Molecular Biology from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, retaining her credentials with continuing education and training. She prepares Honors students for careers in genetic testing and genomic medicine within the rapidly changing health care environment. Judy provides both academic and career advising while also participate in scholarly and outreach activities.

Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient



Sarah Wojiski, Ph.D.

Dr. Wojiski is a 1997 graduate of the the UConn Honors Program earning her Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Genetic Sciences. Sarah is the Director of Education at the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine in Farmington, CT. Following a Ph.D. in genetics from Harvard University, she completed a teaching and curriculum fellowship at Harvard Medical School, working on graduate and medical genetics curriculum reform. Sarah was a biology faculty member at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Southern Connecticut State University, where she taught introductory biology, molecular and cellular biology and genetics. Her scholarship interests lie in curriculum development and innovative teaching and learning practices. She has taught at the undergraduate, graduate, medical, and high school level, and believes in providing engaging and enriching learning opportunities for all. In her current role at The Jackson Laboratory, Sarah oversees education programs that span multiple learner groups, from high school teachers to postdoctoral scientists.

Past Faculty Member of the Year Award Recipients

2018-19 Jennifer Sterling-Folker, Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2017-18 Brian Aneskievich, School of Pharmacy
2016-17 Blair T. Johnson, Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015-16 Alaina Brenick, Human Development and Family Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014-15 Mark Boyer, Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013-14 Patrick Dragon, Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013-14 Annamaria Csizmadia, Human Development and Family Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2012-13 Patricia J. Neafsey, Nursing, School of Nursing
2012-13 Rebecca Flanagan, Pre-Law, Enrichment Program
2011-12 Virginia Hettinger, Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2010-11 William F. Bailey, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2009-10 Lawrence Gramling, Accounting, School of Business
2009-10 Robert Thorson, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2008-09 Robert Gross, History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2007-08 Steven Wisensale, Human Development & Family Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2006-07 Louis Lombardi, Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2005-06 Lawrence Hightower, Molecular & Cell Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2004-05 Robin Chazdon, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2003-04 Harry A. Frank, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Past Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2019 Alan Bennett '69 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2018 The Honors Inaugural Class of 1968
2017 Sarah D. Kambou '80 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2017 Kate Farrar '01 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2016 David Fetterman '76 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2016 Mark Romanoff '79 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015 Robert LaBarre '76 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2015 Patricia Friar '80 School of Business
2014 Howard M. Sandler '78 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2014 Brian Preleski '87 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2013 Anthony E. Chiodo '80 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
2012 Marian Kennedy '70 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2011 Robert M. Holster '68 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2011 Nicole McKinney Lindsay '96 School of Business
2010 Roger Ballentine '85 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2010 Virginia DeJohn Anderson '76 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2009 Mark Weidenbaum '77 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2009 Daniel Levine '78 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2008 Bonnie Sarno Vontell '81 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
2007 Carolyn Runowicz '73 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
Maureen Armstrong, Committee Rep/Scholastic Standards
Dylan Audette, Molecular and Cell Biology (Hartford)
Pamela Bedore, Committee Rep/Senate C&C)
Emily Blackburn, Class of 2021
Judy Brown, College of Agriculture, Health, & Natural Resources
Kelly Burke, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Mary Burke, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Jamie Caruso, Bachelor of General Studies Program (Waterbury)
Jaclyn Chancey, Honors Program
James Chrobak, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Kiranthheja Daggula, Class of 2020
Laura Donorfio, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Waterbury)
Leigh Fine, Honors Program
Reinier Gonzalez, Class of 2022

Travis Grosser, School of Business
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