The annual College of Arts and Sciences student research conference, now in its 25th year and funded in part by a generous grant from AU trustee and alumna Robyn Rafferty Mathias, provides a forum for College undergraduate and graduate students to present original scholarly and creative works before colleagues, faculty, and friends.
Conference Schedule

**MORNING POSTER SESSION:** 9:30–11:30 AM  ROTUNDA

**SESSION ONE:** 9:00–10:30 AM

Here’s to Your Health  KATZEN 112
Informing the Future  KATZEN 115
Ladies, Gentlemen, and Those Who Are Yet to Decide  KATZEN 123
Views of Women  KATZEN 128

**BREAK:** 10:30–10:45 AM

**SESSION TWO:** 10:45 AM–12:15 PM

A Body of Works  KATZEN 112
Go to the Movies or Stay Home to Watch TV?  KATZEN 115
Enjoy the Show!  KATZEN 123

**LUNCHEON:** 12:30–1:30 PM

**AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION:** 12:45–3:45 PM  ROTUNDA

**SESSION THREE:** 1:45–3:15 PM

Curling Up with a Good Book  KATZEN 112
Docent  KATZEN 115
Modern Life  KATZEN 123
Occupying a New Space  KATZEN 128

**SESSION FOUR:** 3:30–5:00 PM

The Beauty of Nature and Mathematics  KATZEN 112
The Sound of Music  KATZEN 115
We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident  KATZEN 123
SESSION 1 (9:00-11:30 AM)

Here’s to Your Health

How Did Malaria Parasites Learn to Infect Humans?
Alfred Mabika, MA Candidate, Biology

Investigating the Fitness Effects of Synonymous Mutations in Escherichia coli: A Test of the Local and Global Translational Selection Hypotheses
Anne Ballard, MS Candidate, Biology

SINE Subfamily Evolution in Felidae
Alexander Gotowski, Senior, Mathematics and Philosophy

Stigma of Depression
Kaitlin Pericak, Senior, Sociology

The Socio-political and Health Implications of Using Untreated Wastewater for Agriculture in Pakistan
Amber Ajani, MS Candidate, Environmental Science

Informing the Future

A New Deal for the World: George C. Marshall, Post-War Europe, and How Roosevelt’s New Deal Helped Rebuild Europe
Zachary Kopin, MA Candidate, History

A New Way of Telling: the Individual and Narrative Testimony in Luisa Valenzuela’s Cola de lagartija
Alexandra Vranas, MA Candidate, Spanish: Latin American Studies

Curating America’s Cultural Foreign Policy in WWII
Sarah de Blasio, Senior, History and Art History
SESSION 1 (9:00-11:30 AM)

In the Steps of Chávez
Greg Davis, MA Candidate, Spanish: Latin American Studies

Our Man in Harbin versus the American Black Chamber: Evaluating Intelligence in US-Japan relations
Paul Behringer, PhD Candidate, History

Ladies, Gentlemen, and Those Yet to Decide

Are We There Yet? Gender Equality in Arts Leadership
Jessica Ferey, MA Candidate, Arts Management

Byron’s “Manfred”: Non-Normative Sexuality & Identity
Madison Chapman, Senior, Literature

Missing Girls: Gender Inequality and Gendercide in China and India
Sarah Hendricks, Junior, Print Journalism and Computer Science

Perceptions of an Ace/Queer Coalition
Zach Lesher, Senior, Sociology

To Better the Man: How Greek Fraternities Shape College Masculinity
Katharine Gifford, Senior, International Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Understanding Wage Determination for Behaviorally Gay and Lesbian People: The Effect of Masculinity Traits
Emily Ellis, Senior, Economics and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
SESSION 1 (9:00-11:30 AM)

Views of Women

Burgers and Broads: Spec Scripts and the Representation of Women in Television
Sarah Lance, Senior, Literature

Early Automobiles and Female Autonomy
Tyler Tremblay, Senior, Political Science

I Shall Speak About Women’s Writing: The Publishing of Marie Vieux-Chauvet’s “Love” and the Diary Form as Female Narrative Ownership
Julia Irion Martins, Senior, Literature

Subversion Shopping: Frances Burney’s Depiction of Female Commercial Management and Agency in Evelina and Cecilia
Marjorie Ruby, Senior, International Studies and Literature
SESSION 2 (10:45 AM-12:15 PM)

A Body of Works

An Analysis of the Figura Serpentinata Pose in the Works of Michelangelo Buonarroti
Anne Schroeder, Senior, Art History

Nobody’s Perfect: A Macrobian Analysis of Titian’s The Bacchanal of the Andrians
Genevieve Stegner-Freitag, Senior, Art History

Sex and Spirituality in Lucas Cranach’s Nymph of the Spring
Jennifer Wu, MA Candidate, Art History

Titian and Saint Sebastian’s Resurrected Body
Elizabeth Mullen, MA Candidate, Art History

Enjoy the Show!

Dirty Conscience: A Major, an Identity, a Performance
Darren Rabinowitz, Senior, Interdisciplinary Studies

The Scholarship of Funny
Rosemary Cipriano, Senior, Theatre Arts and Public Communication

Go to the Movies or Stay Home to Watch TV?

Failed Reconciliation in American Domestic Sitcoms
Laura Gibson, PhD Candidate, History

Gender and Sexuality in Almodóvar’s Bad Education
Andrea Migliorisi, Senior, Literature

Self-portraits of Inequality: Documentary Films from Globalized Latin America
Marcie Neil, MA Candidate, Spanish: Latin American Studies

Sith and Saints: Exploring Good and Evil in A Galaxy Far, Far Away
Sam Bermas-Dawes, Senior, Journalism

The Credibility of Intimacy in Performative Documentaries
Joshua Kimball, Senior, Justice, Law, and Criminology
SESSION 3 (1:45–3:15 PM)

Curling Up with a Good Book

“Dulce et Decorum est”: The Pleasures of War and the Romantic Sublime
Alex Lenkei, Senior, Literature

Interpretation and Media(tion): The Hermeneutics of Subjectivity in Paul Ricoeur
Leo Zausen, Senior, Philosophy

Powerful Flesh: Lucretius and the Body of Venus in Bronzino’s An Allegory with Venus and Cupid
Catherine Vassaux, MA Candidate, Art History

The Complicated Emotion of Love in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Never Let Me Go
Lauren S. Hoffman, Senior, Literature

To Be Educated: From Mary Shelly to Mary Wollstonecraft
Jessica Flores, Senior, Literature

Docent

Angola and Kenya Pavilions in the 2013 Venice Biennale: African Contemporary Art and Cultural Diplomacy in the "Olympics of Art"
Emi Nishimura, MA Candidate, Arts Management
Isabelle Zaugg, PhD Candidate, Communication

Jacques-Louis David’s Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier and His Wife: Self-Definition at the Dawn of the French Revolution
Erica Bogese, MA Candidate, Art History

László Moholy-Nagy’s Photograms: Rejecting Tradition for Scientific Creativity
Rebecca Blader, MA Candidate, Art History

The Merchant of Venice: Justice, Mercy, and the Legal History Context
Antoinette Fisher, Senior, Literature
SESSION 3 (1:45–3:15 PM)

Modern Life

Barbie: Life in the American Dreamhouse
Hannah Nelson, Sophomore, Film and Media Arts

Destination Unknown: Forging a New Drug Policy in Uruguay
Judi O'Brien, MA Candidate, Spanish: Latin American Studies

Insurgency and Civil Disobedience of the Information Age
Rebekah Frank, Junior, Secondary Education and American Studies

Making Over the American Dream
Caroline Pressman, Junior, American Studies

News, Rumor, or Hate Speech? Social Media Use and Violence in Northern Kenya
Sean Furtmage, PhD Candidate, Anthropology

Sports, PR, and the Media: How Much We Really Know about Our Favorite Athletes
Taryn Daniels, Sophomore, Public Communications
SESSION 3 (1:45–3:15 PM)

Occupy ing a New Space

Ariel Mond, Senior, History and French Language and Area Studies

Defining the “Exceptionally Vulnerable”: NGOs' Role in Categorizing Deserving Immigrants
Siobhan McGuirk, PhD Candidate, Anthropology

Limited Perception in the Arts; Conrad, Turner and the Critique of Imperialism
Nolan Miller, Senior, Literature

Narrating the Journey: A Collective Testimonial Account of Central American Youth Migration
Sarah Palazzolo, Senior, Spanish: Latin American Studies

The Sovereignty Vs. Survival Paradigm: Exploring the Negotiation of Bare Life in Honduras’ Emerging “Model Cities”
Beth Geglia, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
SESSION 4 (3:30-5:00 PM)

The Beauty of Nature and Mathematics

Connecting the Dots: Visualizing the Uniformization Theorem
Emma Zaballos, Senior, Applied Mathematics and Political Science

Every Vote Counts
Benjamin Muirhead, Senior, Political Science and Statistics

How Election Structures Can Determine Winners
Thomas Woermer, Senior, Mathematics and Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government (CLEG)
Identifying Growth Rates of Avicennia Marina
Susie Vulpas, MA Candidate, Environmental Science

John Muir and the Native Americans:
Conceptions of the Natural World
Yael Bame, Senior, Literature

Modeling the Effect of Fracking on Dissolved Metal Loading to the Potomac River
Rebecca M. Wolf, Senior, Environmental Science

Raman Characterization of Graphene and 2D TMD Heterostructures
Benjamin Derby, Senior, Physics

What is a Matrix? (and How Can it Predict the Weather?)
David D'Auria, Senior, Mathematics and Economics

The Sound of Music

"Kendrick Have a Dream": Good Kid, m.A.A.d City and Freire's Problem Posing Pedagogy
Jack Kernochan, Senior, Literature

A Pro-Funk Administration? The DC Funk Parade and the Politics of Space.
Joanna Dressel, Senior, Sociology

Acoustic Multipath Echo Detection
Brian DiZio, Senior, Mathematics and Business Administration
SESSION 4 (3:30-5:00 PM)

Feminist? A Critical Look at Women in Pop Music
Carson Bear, Senior, Literature

Liminality and Performance in Appalachian Music Heritage
Jackson Anthony, Sophomore, Philosophy

The Creativity of Madness: A Survey and Analysis of the Validity of Research Concerning the Psychopathology of the Musical Mind
Sarah Wirshup, Senior, Psychology and Music

We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident

An Autoethnography: Analyzing One’s Social Location to “Bridge” Differences between Social Groups in the Context of the Post-Ferguson Racial Discourse and Social Movements
Taylor Moore, Senior, Sociology

Analysis of Gender Violence in Salta, Argentina: The Application of Laws, Education and Art
Caroline Duchin, MA Candidate, Spanish: Latin American Studies

Elements of Mentor Programming that Add and Distract from the Development of African American Girls
Ta Lynn Mitchell, Senior, Sociology

Navigating Racial Terrain: Exploring Multiracial Experiences in Constructing Racial Identity Amidst Monoracial Structures and their Sociopolitical and Cultural Implications
Jessica Lawson, Senior, Sociology

Problems of Romanticism in a Stratified Society
Shuyang Ren, Senior, Psychology and Literature

The Persistence of the Tragic Mulatto
Brianna Spencer, Senior, Literature
MORNING POSTER SESSION (9:30-11:30 AM)

"Alone I Can't Breathe, Together we are Breathless." Exploring the Complex Social Locations of Student Activists of the Black Lives Matter Movement at a Predominantly White Institution
Shannon Trudge, Senior, Sociology

Assessment of the Health Status of the Seme Community, Kisumu County, Western Kenya
Wyatt Bensken, Junior, Public Health

Healthy People, Healthy Cities: The Correlation Between Air Quality and Walkability
Michael Mannello, Freshman, Public Health
Madeleine Naish, Freshman, Public Health
Ariel Rothman, Sophomore, International Studies and Economics

Improving Eating Habits on the American University Campus
Rebecca Chevat, Freshman, Public Health
Megan Elwell, Freshman, Public Health

Mental Health and Gender Stigmas Through the Media
Faith Bruton, Freshman, Public Health
Alexandra Parry, Freshman, Undecided
Any Pforzheimer, Freshman, Undecided

Parental Reactions to their Children's Upset
Katherine Allen, MA Candidate, Psychology
Cara Goerlich, Senior, Psychology
Kelly Macdonald, MA Candidate, Psychology
Leah Rothschild, PhD Candidate, Clinical Psychology
Emma Woodward, MA Candidate, Psychology

Recognition of Faces with Changed Age Information: Effects of Gender
Wenyan Bi, PhD Candidate, Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Smoking Outcomes Expectancies Among Menthol and Non-Menthol Smokers
Myrto Papakonstantinou, Senior, Applied Mathematics and Psychology
The Moderating Role of Implicit Theories of Emotion in the Relationship Between College Adjustment and Depression Among First-year College Students
Cara Goerlich, Senior, Psychology
Use of a Novel Behavioral Assay in Determining Phototaxic Response to a Fourier Motion Stimulus
Matthew LeFauve, MS Candidate, Biology

An in vitro Examination of Western Diet Effects on Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability
Shraddha Batra, Senior, Biology

Cancer-associated Fibroblasts, Through the Use of MMPs and TGF-B Signaling Molecules, Promote the Growth and Metastasis of Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Ben Taylor, Senior, Biology

Design and Synthesis of Alkynyl Pregnenolone for Molecular Targeting of Cholesterol Metabolites with Click Chemistry
Monika Gasiorek, Senior, Biochemistry

Exploring the Hormonal and Behavioral Responses of Zoo-housed Gorillas (Gorilla gorilla gorilla) Upon Introduction of a Female Conspecific
Kimberly Kramer, MS Candidate, Biology

How did Malaria Parasites Learn to Infect Humans?
Alfred Mabika, MS Candidate, Biology

Relating Dust Composition to Light Extinction Curves
Sarah Bieniek, Senior, Biology and Physics

Synthesis of Folate-Appended beta-Cyclodextrin
Jacob Nieb, Senior, Literature and Biology

TACO LEAF is a Novel Transcriptional Regulator of Genes Involved in Arabidopsis Floral Patterning
Laina Weinman, Senior, Public Health

The Effects of Adolescent Nicotine Pre-Exposure on Cocaine Reward and Aversions in Adult Sprague-Dawley Rats
Tamaara Alissa Bostwick, Senior, Public Health

The Importance of Antibiotic Dosage in E.coli Codon Bias Selection Assays
Sarah Bieniek, Senior, Biology and Physics
The Neuroscience of Subjective Value and Behavioral Choice
Linda Amarante, PhD Candidate, Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience

The Role of Ethanol Pre-exposure in Ethanol Conditioned Place Preference in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)
Carly Clayman, PhD Candidate, Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience

Western Diet Consumption Diminishes Appetitive Control by Internal Satiety Cues Relative to External Food Cues
Camille Sample, PhD Candidate, Behavior, Cognition, and Neuroscience