FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Harriet L. Wilkes
Honors College

Medallion Ceremony 2025

Friday, May 2, 2025
Florida Atlantic University | John D. MacArthur Campus

Medallion Ceremony Program 2025 Order of Ceremony:

Processional

WELCOME ADDRESS: Justin Perry, Ph.D., Dean

UNIVERSITY AWARDS: Justin Perry, Ph.D., Dean

STUDENT RECOGNITION AWARDS:
Keith Jakee, Ph.D.

GRADUATION ADDRESS: Ellie Pfahler

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLIONS:
Justin Perry, Ph.D., Dean

WILKES HONORS COLLEGE 2025 DISTINGUISHED ALUM: Joe Colucci '03

CLOSING REMARKS: Justin Perry, Ph.D., Dean

Recessional

Joe Colucci '03

Joe Colucci grew up in New Jersey. He was part of the very first class in the Honors College, arriving in August of 1999. He graduated class of 2003 with a concentration in Psychology. Upon graduation, he stayed in Jupiter where he began his career in the beverage alcohol industry, working for several companies with internationally known brands before taking the leap and co-founding his own spirits brand, Munyon's Paw-Paw in January 2023.

Joe is married to his wife of 17 years, Erin, whom he met at the Honors College in 2002. They have three boys and reside right here in Jupiter Farms.

List of Graduates 2025

Priscilla Agrinsoni

CONCENTRATIONS: Chemistry and Spanish Literature

ADVISOR: Dr. Daniel de Lill

THESIS: Exploring Bis-Dinitrocarboxyphenyl-Kryptofix-22 Derivatives as Precursors for Heterogeneous Catalysts in Biodiesel Production

The growing demand for sustainable fuel alternatives has increased interest in biodiesel production. This research investigates the catalytic performance of a bis-dinitrocarboxyphenyl-Kryptofix-22 derivative. It seeks to lay the groundwork for developing metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) as heterogeneous catalysts. This research contributes to the long-term goal of designing cost-effective, sustainable catalysts that enhance the economic viability of biodiesel production.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Board game nights and studying abroad in Spain.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: In the summer, I will be assisting Dr. Cañete in the study abroad program to Spain. In the fall, I will begin graduate school, pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Florida.

Rachel Allison

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Survey and Analysis of Gopher Tortoise Demographics in Range X of the Abacoa Greenway

For my thesis, I examined gopher tortoise demographics in a range of the Abacoa Greenway that has not been extensively studied before. In this demographic analysis, I found that the range had tortoises that hit sexual maturity at an earlier age, had a higher sex ratio of females to males, and had an exciting presence of younger sub-adult, juvenile, and hatchling tortoises. These results indicated the range is highly productive and could provide further evidence towards protecting the Abacoa Greenway tortoise population as a population that can persist for 1000 years.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memories are the first time I got to hang out after class with my lab partner from Gen Chem lab who ended up being my best friend for the rest of my time at the Honors College and getting to work in the field for my thesis and internship with my favorite faculty members.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I hope to attend graduate school to obtain an MS in the marine biology field, with my dream being to one day study cetacean bioacoustics and communication. I also hope to obtain internships related to more general marine science domains that can broaden and further my experience and research skills.

Rob Alonso-Guma

CONCENTRATION: Business and Economics

ADVISORS: Dr. Zachary Ferrara

THESIS: The Power of Personalization: How Tailored Marketing Drives Consumer Engagement

Personalized marketing uses consumer data and advanced technologies to deliver highly individualized content and offers, reshaping traditional one-size-fits-all strategies. Consumer engagement evolves beyond basic clicks or purchases, encompassing emotional connection, brand loyalty, and sustained lifetime value. This thesis examines the evolution of personalization and investigates metrics to assess effectiveness. It also addresses the core strategies and ethical concerns of consumers alike.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Spending time with friends in the dorms and enjoying the small moments.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After completing my degree, I plan to apply for jobs in the Marketing field to gain hands-on experience. Once I have established my professional foundation, I intend to pursue an MBA to further refine my skills.

Vilmaris Alvarado

CONCENTRATION: Mathematics

ADVISOR: Dr. Warren McGovern

THESIS: Commutative Rings

Rings are sets together with addition and multiplication that satisfy a number of properties. Rings have specific types of elements. This transfers over to group rings which are best calculated using Excel.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Working as a Calc 1 Learning Assistant

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Pure Math Ph.D. at FSU

Yosuf Arab

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and Business Management

ADVISOR: Dr. David Cinalli

THESIS: Towards a Metabolic Assay for Neuronal Performance in Vivo

My thesis focused on the development of an assay used to test motor neuron performance in live Drosophila larvae.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Competing with friends in ultimate frisbee, ping-pong, and video games.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I hope to enter medical school, earn an M.D., and open my own clinic.

David Baldwin

CONCENTRATION: Environmental Science

ADVISORS: Dr. Kelsie Bernot and Dr. Michael McCoy

THESIS: Experimental Modeling of Plant Eco-Physiological Adaptation in Acacia and Quantitative Modeling of the Limited Homeothermy Hypothesis Using Novel Infrared Imaging Techniques

This study employs new methods in infrared thermography and multiple generalized linear mixed effects models to investigate the thermal regulation mechanisms of four Acacia (a large genus of pea plant) under simulated heatwaves. Temperature variance across diverse leaf morphologies quantifies the how leaves thermoregulate under stress. The resilience of Acacia species and the utility of thermal imaging for elucidating plant physiological responses to climate-induced stress paves the way for further exploration into the adaptive strategies of diverse plant taxa in the ever-hotter Anthropocene.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite moments are those I spent with my closest friends. Sunrises. Beaches. Museums. Outings. Dorms. Homes. Sunsets.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: In October, I anticipate starting my doctoral journey at the University of Oxford as a Biology DPhil (PhD) Student. I plan to conduct research in molecular plant biology, computational biology, and evolutionary biology as it relates to synthetic chloroplast biogenesis and photosynthesis engineering. I will be also be contributing to the Oxford science diplomacy community focused on plant genetic resources in agriculture, biotechnology, and conservation.

Mikayla Barker

CONCENTRATION: Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Shaina Rowell

THESIS: Technological Temptations: Examining the Academic Impact of Digital Distractions on Undergraduate Students

Technological distractions are increasingly prevalent in the academic environment, raising concerns about their impact on undergraduate students' exam performance. This study investigates the relationship between technological distractions, such as smartphones, social media, and other digital devices, and undergraduate students' exam performance. Along with recording course grade data, a survey was conducted among undergraduate students on the study habits they recognized that needed to be changed. The data collected was analyzed to determine if there is a significant relationship between distraction as a behavior that needs to be changed and academic performance. The survey also seeks to understand students' awareness of the need to modify their habits to improve their grades. The findings from this study will provide insights into the extent to which technological distractions affect academic performance and suggest potential strategies to minimize their impact.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is hosting and moderating the Game Night event for FAU Climate & Health.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to pursue an MS in Child Life and become a Certified Child Life Specialist.

Connor Barral

CONCENTRATION: Political Science

ADVISOR: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

THESIS: Analysis Model for Transnational Organized Crime in Latin America and Effective Solutions

It is the application of an analytical model to discern the nature of TCO activity and effective policy solutions. It is then applied to a case study between Mexico and El Salvador.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Attending FAU's moot court team competitions

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be pursuing my Juris Doctor tentatively at the University of Florida.

Jesus Becerra

CONCENTRATION: Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Vernon

THESIS: Wishful Thinking: The Powerful Act of Tarot Card Divination in Ritual and Psychotherapy

Tarot cards can serve as a psychological insight tool when used with ritual frameworks. The imagery on the cards are capable of eliciting unconscious psychological archetypes that reflect the users psychological state. Divination with the tarot presents psychotherapists with collaborative techniques to treat patients in a and provide them with the insights they require.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Playing volleyball and participating in intramural sports

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Working as a mental health peer counselor for adolescent youth.

Amanda Belizaire

CONCENTRATION: Biological Anthropology

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot and Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Taxonomic Identification of Hepatozoon Parasite in Gopherus Polyphemus

My thesis investigates the presence of Hepatozoon sp., a blood parasite, in gopher tortoises —a keystone species in the Southeastern U.S. Using molecular techniques like PCR and gel electrophoresis, I analyzed blood samples from tortoises in the Abacoa Greenway (Jupiter, FL) to determine their genetic relationship to known Hepatozoon species. Phylogenetic analysis further helped classify the parasite. This study aims to enhance our understanding of Hepatozoon infections in South Florida's gopher tortoises, contributing to more effective conservation efforts.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is performing in the Owlettes Spring Showcase every year.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduating, I got a job as a phlebotomist, and I will continue working as I start my application to medical school.

Chantae Bennett

CONCENTRATION: Biology and Mathematics

ADVISOR: Dr. Catherine Trivigno

THESIS: The Role of Dsd in regulating insulin producing cells

My thesis investigates the role of the Distracted (Dsd) protein, the Drosophila homolog of Attractin, a transmembrane protein in mammals linked to sleep, metabolic, and neurodegenerative disorders. Our findings suggest that Dsd influences insulin-producing cell inhibition, thereby affecting insulin levels and feeding behaviors in Drosophila. Our research aims to explore how Dsd regulates insulin-producing cells under different stimuli, particularly a high-glucose diet, and how it can contribute to dysfunctions in this pathway.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Over the past four years, I've made countless unforgettable memories, making it nearly impossible to choose just one. Some of my favorites include late-night walks, study sessions, Spring Formal, Universal trips, and Froyo Fridays, all made special by the incredible friends I've shared them with. The friendships I've built here are more than just part of my college experience, they're bonds that will last a lifetime.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I intend to work in healthcare before applying to medical school.

Luke Ezra Berg

CONCENTRATION: Environmental Studies and Transdisciplinary Visual Arts

ADVISOR: Dr. Jim Wetterer

THESIS: Bachman's Sparrow habitat preference and site fidelity in relation to prescribed burns in Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Investigation of the ability of Bachman's Sparrows to return to their territory, successfully relocate, and breed following the burning of their home ranges, and how prescribed burning influences Bachman's Sparrow preferences for nesting territory in the following breeding season.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Group trips to the poké shop in freshman year.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am applying for internship positions to continue studying birds while I decide where to go for graduate school and what specifically I will study.

Madelyn Brooker

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Assessment of Endangered Key Deer Population on Cudjoe Key, Florida Keys

Key deer are an endangered white-tailed deer subspecies endemic to the lower Florida Keys, including Cudjoe Key. Isolated from the main herd on Big Pine Key, the Cudjoe population, by 2000, had declined to less than 6 individuals. My investigation used a remote camera trapping system of motion-detecting infrared trail cameras at 10 sites throughout Cudjoe Key, from September to December 2024, to identify unique individual male deer based on antler configuration and estimate total population size. Overall, 33 males were identified, estimating a total population of 55 Key deer (using statistical analysis). Additional ecological data was also collected, including Key deer range and movement on Cudjoe Key, foraging activity, male sparring, mating behavior, maternal care, and observations of other native species like birds and small mammals.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Meeting my beloved best friends, who continue to teach me so much about life and friendship, but more importantly who always came to my Marine Biology Club meetings and were forever down for a shenanigan or a Squishmallow hunt.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am planning to pursue a master's degree in conservation biology.

Revaea Burgess

CONCENTRATION: English Literature

ADVISOR: Dr. Nicole Cassanetti

THESIS: Book-to-Film Adaptations: Logistics of Success and Failure

By using examples of some of the world's best and worst book-to-film adaptations, I explore what adaptation truly is, why we do it, what it does for us, and what constitutes an adaptation's success or failure.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Making life long friends and playing ping-pong in the burrow with them.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to break into the world of publishing and editing, using my degree to help others share their art while also creating my own. After gaining some experience in this field, I will consider going back to school to earn my MA.

Esai Burgos

CONCENTRATION: Writing and History

ADVISOR: Nico Cassanetti

THESIS: Crossing the Universal Border

Yuriel and Güaro come across a crash landed spaceship. The latter turns into a creature from outer space and must navigate trying to get money for his sick aunt's cancer treatment. It's way more political than you'd think.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Failing calculus, biology, and chemistry, then pursuing my dream of becoming a writer to bounce back from academic probation.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: In this economy, who knows?

Micah Campbell

CONCENTRATION: Law and Society

ADVISOR: Dr. Keith Jakee

THESIS: Information for Sale: General Motors, Analytical Firms and Data Ownership

The automotive industry has made numerous technological advances in the past decade. The addition of cellular capabilities to vehicles has allowed manufacturers to collect and sell their consumers' Driving Data to third-party analytical firms, which ultimately sell it to insurance companies. General Motors, which owns four subsidiaries, has been collecting and selling its drivers' data without their knowledge. This Driving Data collection scheme has led Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to sue GM for their actions.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Carniv Owl Fall 2023

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be taking a year off to study for the LSAT and then go to Law School. In that time I would like to work at a Law Firm or Government Office while I study for my LSAT,

Tatyanna Caputo

CONCENTRATIONS: Psychology

ADVISORS: Dr. Shaina Rowell

THESIS TITLE Study Group Environments and Their Connection to Study Plans and Strategies

Students have a mental image of how they intend to study but may fail to follow through with their anticipated plan. This inability to follow through on study plans could be related to distractions or unexpected obstacles. A possible solution to this situation is for students to interact with each other in study groups. If students share responsibilities with fellow peers, they might be more likely to follow through on their intended plans. Study groups may also help students adopt the use of stronger study strategies such as quizzing others or explaining to others. This research examined college students intended study plans for an upcoming exam and self-reports on study strategies used.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is the connections that I made with my professors. Every professor I had during my time here left a memorable impact, not only on my academic growth but also on my personal development. I am thankful for their guidance and support during this experience.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending graduate school to get my Master's degree. I plan on attending FAU's graduate school and entering into the psychology program. While getting my masters, I intend on gaining experience through interning at counseling offices.

Jacob Carlson

CONCENTRATION: Biology, Mathematics and French

ADVISOR: Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Quantification and Characterization of the Microbiome of the Edible Halophilic Succulent Suaeda Linearis

Microorganisms can form associations with larger organisms, such as plants, to potentially enhance their survival in the wild. These associations have been studied in many edible plants, but this is not the case for succulent Suaeda linearis. Through microscopy techniques, such as epifluorescent microscopy, and whole genome shotgun sequencing metagenomic analysis, the identification of the microorganisms present in the S. linearis microbiome will be possible. The microbial DNA was extracted from plant samples and microbial species were identified through metagenomic analysis.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is spending time with my friends on and off campus, like going out to dinners together, going to Universal, and hanging out in someone's dom.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan on pursuing graduate studies in Evolutionary Biology.

Miguel Castillo

CONCENTRATION: Neuroscience (Cognition and Behavior Track)

ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin Lanning

THESIS: Linguistic Markers of Academic and Social Integration in First-Generation College Students' Online Reddit Discourse

This research examined the language used by first-generation college students on the subreddit r/ApplyingToCollege and how it differs from their non-first-generation peers. Using the a linguistic analysis tool LIWC (Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count), we found first-gen students tended to use more negative-emotion words, employed longer words on average, and scored lower on LIWC's authenticity metric.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory from the Honors College would have to be the late-night Wendy's run with my roommates the night before our final exams. What made the moment so special wasn't just the great combo meals, but the fact that it was the last spontaneous food run we'd share as roommates before moving on to the next chapter of our lives.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to begin working as an EMT to gain hands-on clinical experience while preparing to apply to medical school.

Maya Clarke

CONCENTRATION: Environmental Science and Economics

ADVISOR: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

THESIS: Cliona Delitrix Population Demographics and Ecological Succession in San Andrés Reefs, Colombia

This thesis aims to assess ecological succession patterns and population demographics of the excavating sponge Cliona delitrix on San Andrés, Colombia reefs over 20 years. Population change and size structure was quantified and a frequency analysis was run to assess the successor prevalence per substratum. Understanding reefs as dynamic entities with succession patterns and populations not always dominated by coral better prepares us for embracing their next phase as sea surface temperatures (SSTs) rise.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My time at the Honors College is filled with joy, but my favorite memories are the times I've spent running into friends at the dining hall. The impromptu meals spurred conversations and camaraderie like no other. I am greatful to have had such a wonderful community and to be a member of the WHC, myself.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be pursuing research internships in the upcoming year while I prepare to apply for my Master's degree in Oceanography. Using this time, I also plan to practice my creative passions and keep my mind active as I explore new cities, communities, and careers!

Nicholas Coelho

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. David Cinalli

THESIS: Bridging STEM Gaps: Active Learning in Cellular Neuroscience Education for Palm Beach County K-12

Active learning techniques have transformed neuroscience education by deepening the understanding of cellular-level concepts such as neuron structure, action potentials, and synaptic transmission. The FAU Brain Institute's Mobile Minds program leverages these innovative methods to engage K-12 students in Palm Beach County through hands-on modules that spark both comprehension and enthusiasm for neuroscience and STEM fields. Evaluative measures—including pre- and post-test assessments, classroom engagement observations, and student interviews—demonstrate significant improvements in knowledge retention and STEM interest. These outcomes highlight the potential of targeted outreach initiatives to bridge educational gaps, especially in underserved communities.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Creating meaningful friendships shaped my time at the Honors College—good friends were always there to cheer me on through every challenge and success. These people became the foundation of unforgettable memories and important life-decisions while I was at FAU.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Currently, I am gaining hands-on experience as a medical assistant while preparing my applications for Physician Assistant (PA) school. My long-term goal is to become a dedicated healthcare provider, focusing on serving underserved communities and addressing disparities in access to quality medical care.

Sam Cohen

CONCENTRATION: Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: Mapping The Intron/Exon Boundaries Of The TLR4 Gene In Gopher Tortoises *(Gopherus polyphemus)*

This study investigates the genetic structure of the TLR4 gene in gopher tortoises (Gopherus polyphemus), a keystone species in the Southeastern United States facing environmental and disease-related threats. By mapping the intron and exon boundaries of the TLR4 gene using Sanger sequencing, my research aims to improve understanding of how gene variations affect immune responses.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Meeting my freshman year roommates.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: My plan is to obtain a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering and then go to Med-School.

Zachary Comella

CONCENTRATION: Biological Chemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Jill Rahaim

THESIS: Exploring the Role of Human Pioneer Factors on HIV Transcription Through RNA Interference Screening

I screened a family of genes (pioneer factors) to determine their effect on HIV transcription.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: All the great relationships with friends and professors I have made.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Attend medical school.

Yessenia Concepcion

CONCENTRATION: Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: Fungal Communities Deep in Gopher Tortoise Burrows

For my thesis I explored what fungi are present deep in gopher tortoise burrows. I looked at burrows of various conditions and sampled the soil from 6 feet deep. I extracted the DNA and amplified the 18S region of the genome to identify the species of fungi present in each sample to see if there was variation depending on the various conditions. The aim of this thesis is to help future researchers determine the significance of these fungal species to tortoise health and the overall role in their micro habitats.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Working in the CURES thesis lab with my lab partners

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to get a masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies and work as a PA.

Maria Eduarda Correa

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Nancy Jones

THESIS: EEG Power Development: Implications for Emotional Regulation in Early Childhood

My thesis was focused on examining how brain development, specifically frontal cortex EEG power, influences emotional regulation in infants. By tracking EEG power at 6, 10, and 12 months, we investigated infants' responses to fear stimuli. My results showed a significant increase in alpha power between 6 and 10 months, especially in response to a stranger's approach. Infants with higher alpha power showed less fear, suggesting a connection between neural activity and emotional regulation. We highlighted critical developmental periods and suggested potential strategies for early intervention in emotional development.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories from the Honors College was the sailing activity we did during our freshman year. It was an incredible experience not only because I had the chance to learn how to sail but also because I got to bond with some amazing people.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Since graduating, I have gained valuable clinical experience working as a medical scribe in the Emergency Department and shadowing osteopathic physicians in outpatient settings. Through this experience, I developed a deep passion for Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and am eager to further explore how the body functions and how OMM techniques help maintain balance and health. For next semester, I plan to take the MCAT and prepare my applications for med school.

Gavin Craft

CONCENTRATION: Transdisciplinary Visual Art

ADVISOR: Dr. Annina Ruest

THESIS: Metamorphosis

I represent the change that comes as a result of pain and experience. Metamorphosis is the liminal state between two places in time.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: It is difficult to choose, but I particularly enjoyed critique day for my first project in Honors Painting II, last year. The warm praise and careful analysis of my work made my effort feel appreciated.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I look forward to applying my skills as an artist and expanding my body of work, ideally to make a career out of producing art. I may also take up miscellaneous work here and there, depending on where my many interests take me.

Brendan Daily

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Jill Rahaim

THESIS: Phenotypic Characterization of Mouse Models of GNAO1 Disorder

GNAO1 encephalopathy is a novel disease that effects children, many of which do not survive past adolescence. The disease can present in a number of different ways, leading to manifestations of epilepsy, movement disorders, or both. It was found in a mouse model that when the G203R mutation of GNAO1 was localized to the striatum, mice were more hyperactive, had deficits in motor learning, and were not susceptible to seizures while forebrain-specific mutants were hyperactive and susceptible to seizures without issues in motor learning.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was getting to explore Biscayne National Park during a trip for my Parks and Preservation class.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: My plan is to attend a school of osteopathic medicine. I have interviewed with my school of choice (Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine), and am awaiting their decision.

Kayla Difede

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Simon Pieraut

THESIS: Extracellular Matrix as a Barrier to C1q Synapse Tagging

C1q is a protein in the brain known for tagging weakened synapses for removal. Traditionally, C1q deposits at tagged synapses, initiating the complement cascade and signaling microglia to remove them, but it is also present throughout the extracellular matrix (ECM). This project examined whether perineuronal nets (PNNs), specialized ECM structures, influence where C1q appears. Using fluorescent imaging, parvalbumin (PV) interneurons with and without PNNs were compared.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Organizing the heat protection drive through the FAU Climate and Health Club for migrant workers in South Florida in partnership with the Guatemalan-Maya Center, as well as my study abroad experience in Guatemala where we helped fundraise a computer lab for a school, hiked a volcano, and saw the Mayan pyramids.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan on taking the DAT this summer and begin preparing my application to dental school. In the meantime, I hope to gain hands-on experience working as a dental assistant.

Luiz Do Prado

CONCENTRATION: Business: Economics Track

ADVISOR: Dr. Keith Jakee

THESIS: The Beatles' Apple Records: A Case Study in Entrepreneurial Failure and its Implications

Our thesis explores the importance of entrepreneurial failure and its unintended market consequences, using the Beatles' Apple Records as a case study for failure. Traditional theories by Kirzner and Schumpeter prioritize successful ventures, often overlooking the real-time uncertainties and decisions entrepreneurs face. Despite its failure, Apple Records unintentionally influenced the industry by launching successful artists and shaping Paul McCartney's later production ventures. This study challenges success-biased frameworks, emphasizing the need to recognize failure as a critical part of the entrepreneurial process and its role in driving unexpected market shifts.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Wilkes Honors College 25th Anniversary Celebration was absolutely my favorite memory from the Honors College. It was an honor and a fulfilling experience to be a part of the Anniversary's Planning Committee and help with bringing the guest speaker Ryan Serhant. The event was really good and I got to connect with a lot of attendees, especially alumni.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will start my career as a private wealth manager/financial advisor.

Kassidy Dunn

CONCENTRATION: Data Analytics

ADVISOR: Dr. Terje Hill

THESIS: How Effective are Machine Learning Algorithms in Enhancing Marketing Strategies?

In recent years, machine learning algorithms have become a vital tool in marketing, yet their impact remains underexplored. This study investigates the mechanisms and applications of machine learning algorithms in marketing strategies, assessing whether they benefit or restrict the effectiveness of marketing strategies. Through relevant research and case studies, we explore the benefits and challenges of machine learning- driven marketing while analyzing machine learning's impact on various industries, including healthcare, coupons, telecommunications, and banking.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory is building a working door prop resembling a giant storybook and performing for the first time on stage for the 2022 Owlettes' Spring Showcase.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will attend graduate school at FAU and plan on getting an M.S. in Information Technology & Management (ITM) with a Concentration in Computer Science Data Analytics.

Ashley Espinosa

CONCENTRATION: Political Science and Law & Society

ADVISOR: Dr. Mark Tunick

THESIS: From Deference to Disarray: The Demise of Chevron and the Future of Federal Agencies

The Supreme Court's decision in Loper Bright v. Raimondo to overturn Chevron deference disrupts administrative law by shifting interpretive authority from agencies to the judiciary. While critics argued Chevron gave agencies too much power, its removal weakens their ability to implement policy, placing more regulatory control in the hands of judges. This thesis explores Chevron's role in administrative law, and I argue overturning Chevron expands judicial policymaking at the expense of functional expertise.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Meeting some of my closest friends!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan on working full-time for a year before attending Law School in 2026.

Vesal Farsian

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Erik Duboué

THESIS: A Comparative Analysis of Neuroimaging Techniques for the Diagnosis and Characterization of Parkinson's Disease

This thesis presents a comparative analysis of various neuroimaging techniques used in the diagnosis, monitoring, and management of Parkinson's disease. By evaluating the strengths, limitations, and clinical applications of structural, functional, and molecular imaging modalities, the study aims to provide insights into the most effective approaches for understanding disease progression and informing therapeutic decisions.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is from orientation, a moment that unexpectedly shaped my academic journey. During one of the sessions, a neuroscientist spoke passionately about his research, delving into the complexities of the brain and the profound impact of scientific discovery. Listening to his experiences ignited a spark within me, a realization that medicine and research were not only fields of study but pathways to understanding and healing. That day, I found my calling. The Honors College nurtured that spark, providing me with the mentorship, resources, and opportunities to explore the intricate relationship between neuroscience and medicine. This memory serves as a constant reminder of why I chose this path and the possibilities that lie ahead.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I am honored to participate in a summer research program at the Anschutz Medical School of the University of Colorado, where I will further explore my passion for neuroscience and translational research. Looking ahead, I am committed to pursuing a dual MD/PhD program, aspiring to contribute to the field of medicine through both clinical practice and scientific discovery. My experiences at the Honors College have equipped me with the critical thinking skills, research acumen, and dedication necessary to make meaningful contributions to understanding and treating neurological disorders. I am excited to continue this journey, bridging the gap between research and patient care.

Alexandra Fernandez

CONCENTRATION: Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Julie Earles

THESIS: Characterization of Rhes and SLC4A7 Binding in Striatal Cells

Rhes and SLC4A7 are two common proteins found in cells affected by Huntington's Disease. By characterizing the binding between the proteins, it may be possible to find a way to inhibit the accumulation of Rhes in patients with Huntington's. The results showed that the beginning and end domains of the Rhes sequence are critical for binding to SLC4A7, which was achieved by using various fragments of Rhes and Rhes substitution mutations.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory is any time spent with my roommates, no matter if it was getting dinner together, attending events around the school, gaming or watching TV in the dorm, or going to the yearly Universal trips.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I'm going to continue my thesis research and study for the MCAT this summer. I'll be taking a gap year to work at a hospital or doctor's office before I apply to medical school and pursue an MD.

Kayla Filjon

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

THESIS: White Veil Disease Susceptibility in HMA and LMA Coral Reef Sponges

Reef sponges are increasingly important due to coral loss, yet their vulnerability to disease remains unclear. This study examined how White Veil disease affects high- (HMA) and low-microbial abundance (LMA) sponges from Florida reefs under high-temperature stress. Results showed that HMA sponges were significantly more susceptible, experiencing greater disease severity, worse health, and lower survival than LMA sponges. These findings help predict sponge resilience in future stressed reef environments.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite time in the honors college was actually when I attended Semester by the Sea. It was an incredible time filled with a lot of hard work but also a lot of fun. My favorite memory during that time was the first time I saw a nudibranch in person. My friend Genevieve found it during a field lab day and I actually got to hold it! It was so much smaller a prettier than I could have ever imagined.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I hope to attend graduate school to further study marine biology, but in the meantime I am interning with the Coral Restoration Foundation doing reef restoration through coral propagation and out-planting.

Andres Fraga

CONCENTRATION: Computer Science and Video Game Development

ADVISOR: Dr. Eugene Smith

THESIS: Developing an Android Application to Lower Admittance of False Positives in Field Drug Testing

Field drug testing has a large metric of error and has notoriously gotten innocent people arrested due to false positives. As such, in this thesis, an accessible and objective metric established through color recognition software in the form of a mobile application was explored and partially developed.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Going on the Universal trips with Program Board and my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be exploring the job market, currently leaning towards working with the establishment with whom I interned, the South Florida Water Management District.

Brandy Garcia Velasquez

CONCENTRATION: Medical Humanities and Spanish Literature

ADVISOR: Dr. Rachel Corr

THESIS: Ni aquí ni allá: The Effect of Liminality on Undocumented Guatemalan Migrant Mothers' Efforts to Seek Healthcare

Undocumented Guatemalan migrants who left to the United States after the Guatemalan Civil War faced problems as they had to navigate a new system with its own complications. I argue that Guatemalan migrant mothers' access to good healthcare is impacted by their liminal status, which impedes them from getting accessible help. As a result, since migrant women serve as the mediators between their families and their communities, they must use other forms of assistance, such as informal networks, packages, and traditional medicine, to address their household's needs.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Checking out different Abacoa shops throughout the years with my best friend.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be taking time off before attending graduate school. I want to get an MA first, and maybe a Ph.D down the line.

Siddhi Gavkar

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Catherine Trivigno

THESIS: Interactions Between Dopamine and Serotonin in a Mouse Model of Neuropsychiatric Disorders

The dopamine transporter (DAT) Val559 mutation was identified in individuals with neuropsychiatric disorders and results in anomalous dopamine efflux. DAT Val559 knock-in mice exhibit compensatory serotonergic hyperinnervation in a region-specific and sex-biased manner that may result from dopamine dysfunction during development. The goal of the current project is to utilize whole brain clearing and light sheet microscopy to uncover functional changes in serotonin signaling resulting from the DAT Val559 mutation across the entire murine brain. To do this, WT and DAT Val559 mice were treated with 5-HT releaser, fenfluramine, and isolated brains were cleared and stained for c-fos, a marker of neuron activation. By imaging and quantifying c-fos+ cells across the whole brain, identification of those circuits most impacted by expression of the DAT Val559 variant will be accomplished, which will allow for the generation of novel hypotheses regarding the neural substrates underlying behavioral phenotypes in DAT Val559 mice.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was performing with my friends on the Aatish dance team for Diwali.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: For my post-graduation plans, I plan on applying and hopefully attending medical school by Fall of 2026.

Mia Gomez

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology and Law and Society

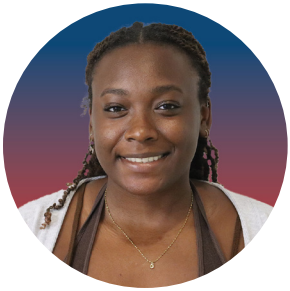
ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Evaluating Fish Community Structure Along a Bermudian Seascape

Population dynamics of fish communities depend on predator-prey distribution, environmental factors such as tidal cycle, and anthropogenic activity. This study utilizes underwater camera systems as an effective tool to passively monitor fish assemblages and track forager activity across time and habitats. For this project, I quantified the diversity of demersal fish communities across the seascape of Harrington Sound, Bermuda, by analyzing continuous photo surveillance collected over 11 days in 2024 at two sites characterized by a variety of habitats: Gibbets Island (inlet) and Green Bay (inshore sound). Species presence, abundance, and foraging behavior were recorded relative to fish communities at each site, focusing on mesopredators. Preliminary results suggest variable mesopredator presence across sites, with Green Bay having the greatest abundance of mesopredators compared to Gibbets Island. These observations demonstrate the importance of benthic, sandy-bottom ecosystems as a hotspot for mesopredatory fishes.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory at the Honors College is studying with Gwen at Subculture coffee shop! The Honors College has been so special and I have loved the tradition of getting Papa Kwans acai bowls and swimming at Juno Beach!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I hope to pursue a Masters in Marine Biology studying shark ecology and habitat use of marine protected areas. This summer, I will be touring graduate schools, helping organizations with research on pelagic sharks, working to publish scientific papers, traveling to visit friends from my study abroad in Australia, and continuing to work with NOAA! No matter where I end up, I'm excited to immerse myself in research!



Trisann Gordon

CONCENTRATION: Biology/Physical Science

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot, Dr. Jon Moore and Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Environmental Reservoirs for Bacteria in Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) Habitats: Investigating Soil and Fecal Microbial Dynamics

This study investigates the transmission of Helicobacter, a potentially harmful bacterial species that colonizes the gastrointestinal tract, and other bacterial taxa in gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus) populations.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my most cherished memories is finding my lifelong friends during my first year as a freshman. We lived just across the hall from each other on campus and quickly became inseparable. Now, they remain among my most trusted and valued friends, and our bond is one I deeply treasure. Their friendship made the Honors College feel like home and one of my favorite places during that time.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be working as a technician assistant at a veterinary practice, gaining experience in various aspects of veterinary medicine, and exploring different fields within the profession as I prepare to apply for graduate school.

MiaBeth Gorodetzer-Edelman

CONCENTRATION: Interdisciplinary History and Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Christopher Ely

THESIS: American Sign Language Over Time and The Sign Languages That Influenced It, with a Comparison to British Sign Language

This thesis discusses the history of American Sign Language, and the sign languages that influenced it, such as Plains Indian Sign Language and Martha's Vineyard Sign Language specifically, as well as the French Influence) and compares to British Sign Language.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Using the swings by the RHs late at night after long study nights.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Hoping to work in a local library before applying to a Master's in Library Science Program in Spring 2026.

Briana Granitto

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Erik Duboué

THESIS: Morphological Development of Neuronal Projection Growth During Early Cortical Network Formation

Early neuronal development requires dendritic and axonal growth and refinement. In the mature visual cortex (V1) of many species, cells that respond to the same stimulus are grouped together in a modular arrangement. Previous studies suggest that exposure to sensory input prompts refinement and function of cortical networks. This project examines how morphological changes in neuronal processes, such as dendrites and axons, relate to the organization of modular networks, focusing on patterns in their growth both before and after sensory input. We imaged sparsely labeled cells from layer 2/3 of V1 in tree shrews across different ages. We focused on three specific age groups: pre-modular (<P15), post-modular (P15-P20), and after eye-opening (>P21). Our results reveal that total dendritic length increases after modular networks have formed, while branch complexity remains stable across several methods of measurement. Future work will examine axonal stability across these critical stages of network development.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory is from just five weeks into my freshman year when I tore my knee on the rec beach volleyball court. While it was physically painful, this moment became a bonding experience that brought me and my best friends (shoutout to Leighton, Madelyn, and Gabi) even closer. From the wildest wheelchair manhunt game to the trusty stool chair I relied on in every chemistry lab, my knee injury may have been unexpected, but it ultimately led me to the people who would become my HC family—the ones who lifted me up, literally and figuratively.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to apply to Physician Assistant school to further my education and pursue a career in healthcare.

Alyssa Green

CONCENTRATION: Biology and Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Catherine Trivigno

THESIS: Long-term Impact on Brain Connectivity and Behavior in a Mouse Model of Prenatal Oxycodone Exposure

My thesis examines the long-term effects of prenatal opioid exposure on behavior and brain connectivity. This study found that adult male mice exposed to prenatal oxycodone exhibited increased impulsivity and impaired behavioral flexibility. Brain mapping revealed hyperconnectivity between the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) and basolateral amygdala (BLA), regions critical for decision-making and valence processing. Chemogenetic manipulation confirmed this circuit's role in impulsive behavior, highlighting altered OFC-BLA connectivity as a potential mechanism underlying these effects.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories is the opportunity to meet incredible people, build lasting friendships, and form a strong community. From late-night hangouts and nighttime walks around campus with friends to exploring Abacoa and West Palm Beach, and Tea time with my freshman roommates and so many others, these moments have made my college experience unforgettable.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to work as a medical assistant and scribe in order to gain clinical experience and subsequently apply to medical school.

Alberto Hernandez

CONCENTRATIONS: International Studies and Spanish Literature

ADVISORS: Monica Maldonado, Ph.D. and Carmen Cañete Quesada, Ph.D.

THESIS: Restoring Political and Cultural Memory in Spain: The Impact of El Silencio de Otros

This thesis examines how Franco's dictatorship shaped the historical narrative of the Spanish Civil War through propaganda and censorship, and how the "Pact of Forgetting" and the 1977 Amnesty Law suppressed discussion of past atrocities. It explores how the 2007 Historical Memory Law revived suppressed narratives, enabling a more accurate historical portrayal. Focusing on The Silence of Others by Almudena Carracedo and Robert Bahar, the study analyzes how personal testimonials shape the film's narrative, linking individual stories to political and cultural memory.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Study abroad in Spain. Followed closely by study abroad in Guatemala

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am currently working as a middle school teacher, and studying for my GRE.

Vaden Hughes

CONCENTRATION: Economics

ADVISOR: Dr. Kanybek Nur-tegin

THESIS: The Effects of Financial Giants in the Housing Market: A Study of the Impact of Private Equity and Institutional Investors During the 2008 Crisis

The 2008 financial crisis revealed substantial vulnerabilities in the housing market and financial sector, in which private equity firms and institutional investors played an important role. This thesis analyzes the impact of Blackstone, KKR, Bain Capital, and Apollo Global Management on the housing bubble, speculative investments, and post-crisis strategies through case studies that involve commercial real estate, mortgage lending, home building, and residential real estate.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Getting to meet Ryan Serhant and attend the 25th Anniversary Gala.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Working as a Financial Analysis and Investor Relations Associate for a Private Equity Backed Real Estate firm

Deena Ilario

CONCENTRATION: Economics

ADVISOR: Dr. Kanybek Nur-tegin

THESIS: The Fashion Industry and Its Impact on Conumers' Purchasing Decisions

Researching the fashion industries, how it has changed through time, and how it influences consumers purchasing decisions.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Currently in FAU graduate school for Masters of Science in Business Analytics

Maryam Imran

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and Anthropology

ADVISOR: Dr. Jacqueline Fewkes

THESIS: Digital Discourse on Alzheimer's Disease: A Text Analysis of Cross-Cultural Sentiments in Online Communities

Alzheimer's disease is a neurological condition characterized by a significant decline in cognitive function and ability. Due to its severe effects and the absence of a cure, early diagnosis and treatment are crucial for slowing its progression. Understanding how cultural perceptions influence diagnostic beliefs and treatment decisions is essential for improving healthcare delivery globally. My project examines how cultural perceptions of Alzheimer's disease are reflected in digital discourse. Using Voyant, a computational text analysis tool, I analyzed Reddit discussions from South Asian, East Asian, and North American individuals, categorizing their posts into three themes: diagnosis perceptions, treatment decisions, and family/social dynamics. Through word frequency and contextual analysis, I identified recurring linguistic patterns that shape attitudes toward these themes across different cultural contexts and classified sentiments as negative, positive, or neutral. My project highlights how cultural narratives influence public understanding of neurodegenerative diseases and offers insights for developing more diversely informed healthcare communication strategies.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Preparing for and attending the American Anthropological Association conference with my peers.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to gain clinical experience and apply to Med School.

Paityn Johnston

CONCENTRATION: Computer Science

ADVISORS: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: A Comparison and Preliminary Analysis of Sexual Dimorphism of the Gut Microbiome in Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) of Southeastern Florida

Comparison of microbial compositions between male and female gopher tortoises

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Ziplining with Dean Perry at CarnivOWL.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: M.S. in IT Management with a concentration in Data Analytics through FAU COECS

Angie Jurado

CONCENTRATION: Political Science

ADVISOR: Dr. Keith Jakee

THESIS: Is Free Speech a "Threat to Democracy?" A Review of "Attack from Within"

Angie's thesis reviews "Attack from Within" by Barbara McQuade, former US Attorney and professor of law. McQuade argues that so-called disinformation "threatens" the very existence of the United States, and she claims that her goal is to help "defeat" disinformation by proposing regulatory policies. After providing a synopsis of the book, Angie presents four main categories of criticisms: her (i) factual inaccuracies and (ii) warrant issues categories point to specific weaknesses in McQuade's arguments that undermine her central claim; her (iii) history and (iv) philosophy of free speech categories analyze the history of free speech in America at its founding and review the philosophical arguments of relevant intellectuals on the issue. Angie concludes that McQuade's regulatory policy proposals will not succeed in fostering a freer or more informed society.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Angie's favorite Honors College memory is receiving unsolicited life advice during every meeting with her thesis advisor. Topics would range from stressing the importance of hard work and discipline to knowing when to pick your battles during the writing process. Angie will forever be grateful for and indebted to Dr. Keith Jakee for taking the time out of his day to make sure she has learned the most valuable kind of lessons: the kind that can't be found in a textbook, but are essential to accomplish any goal.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After leaving the Honors College, Angie will complete an internship with the Law and Economics Center at George Mason University, courtesy of a scholarship provided by The Fund for American Studies. During that time, she plans to study for her LSAT in the hopes that she can attend George Mason for law school. After law school, she looks forward to becoming an attorney who argues cases based on preserving free speech and other fundamental constitutional rights.

Joseph Kagan

CONCENTRATION: Biochemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Chitra Chandrasekhar

THESIS: TBA

Examination of the role of the transcription factor c-MYC in sepsis model neural endothelial cells.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Lab

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Taking a gap year and applying to medical school.

Avinash Kanakam

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and Data Science

ADVISOR: Dr. Bethany Stanhope

THESIS: Characterization of Insular Nos1 Neuron Activity in Non-Homeostatic Feeding Behaviors

Analyzing a region of the brain that we believe to be involved in overeating behaviors, using a variety of techniques, included automated behavior detection with AI-assisted computer vision and neural activity analysis using machine learning.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory was going on the 2023 Universal Trip with my friends. It was a fun day at an amusement park made better with the presence of my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Attending the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine to pursue a M.D. I hope to attend and continue studying and researching to work towards joining a residency program in psychiatry or neurology.

Madison Kaplan

CONCENTRATION: Political Science and Law and Society

ADVISOR: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

THESIS: International Theories Explaining President Ronald Reagan's Foreign Policy in Afghanistan and its Future Implications

Realism and then neorealism were the dominant paradigms in international relations theory from the 1940s through the 1990s. These theories treat states as largely rational actors responding to the security dilemma through self-help in an international environment characterized by anarchy. Thus, policies such as Ronald Reagan's Operation Cyclone supporting the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan to fight against the Soviet occupation have been explained through the lens of realism. Since the end of the Cold War, constructivist theorists have questioned both the assumptions and the predictions of realism. This thesis evaluates Reagan's policy in Afghanistan, comparing the constructivist and realist approaches, and argues that constructivism provides a better explanation for policy than realism. Furthermore, the insights arising from the constructivist approach are useful for informing policy and potentially reducing the long-term blowback effects, like the eventual formation of Al Qaeda and the attacks of 9/11.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: I was selected as one of the interns for FFLIP (FAUs Legislative Internship Program) and interned with a state representative for a whole session in Tallahassee.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, Madison plans on attending law school to get her JD. She plans to have a future career in law and politics where she will serve as a true representative of the people.

Richard Keefauver

CONCENTRATION: Transdisiplinary Visual Arts

ADVISOR: Dr. Dorotha Lemeh

THESIS: "Off the Old Gray Track" Pilot Animation

A pilot animatic and accompanying pitch bible for an animated show

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Working as a TA.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Applying to graduate programs abroad.

Emaad Khan

CONCENTRATION: Political Science and Spanish

ADVISOR: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

THESIS: The Impact of Social Media on Political Polarization

Analyzing to what degree people's social media usage can polarize their political beliefs by applying contact and negative contact theory in different case studies.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite honors college memory is going to the Abacoa Ampitheatre concerts with the 204 mamas.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Hopefully completing an MA in International Affairs at a school in D.C. along the path towards joining the Foreign Service.

Marli Knox

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and Biochemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Sarah Cohen

THESIS: Tracing Direct Neuronal Projections from the Mouse Perirhinal Cortex to the Hippocampus

The contribution of the hippocampus, a critical brain structure for long-term memory, is remarkably conserved between mice and humans. Episodic memories formed in the hippocampus integrate spatial information with item/object information from the perirhinal cortex (PRh). Whether the mouse perirhinal cortex (PRh), particularly its rostral deep layers (IV-VI), directly projects to the CA1 region of the dorsal hippocampus is unclear. We aim to use retrograde viral tracer injections into the dorsal CA1, coupled with whole-brain clearing and 3D imaging with light-sheet microscopy to permit comprehensive tracing of neuronal populations and projections.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Hosting FAU Climate and Health game night with my best friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine to complete my M.D./Ph.D. focusing on neural engineering and precision neurosurgery.

Bria Kuntz

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology and Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

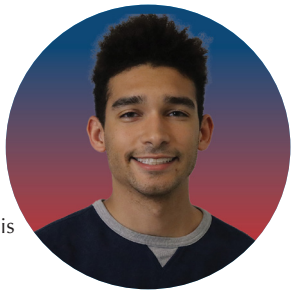
THESIS: Cause and Regionalization of Sublethal Injuries to Juvenile Giant Manta Rays (*Mobula birostris*) off the Southeastern Florida Coast

Working with the Marine Megafauna Foundation, I researched a juvenile population of the endangered Giant Manta Ray which showed a range of injuries occurring off the southeastern coast of Florida. In this study we found that the majority of the injuries were anthropogenic, mainly due to fishing gear entanglements and vessel strikes. This study also analyzed the body regionalization of injuries, in which we calculated how different injury types occurred more or less frequently compared to the proportional area of each region.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Having friends introduce me to Hannah's Home and volunteering in childcare with the babies there. Their mission is to help homeless, single, pregnant women, and getting to volunteer with them really opened my eyes to what I am truly passionate about.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will either be working as an elementary school teacher or working at a faith-based non-profit dedicated to supporting local moms and families by building relationships, creating community, and meeting family needs.

Loïc La-Branche



CONCENTRATION: Biochemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Daniel de Lill

THESIS: Fuel of the Future: Toward Biodiesel Synthesis with Metal Organic Frameworks

In the face of climate crises, a green initiative for fuels demands a renewable, economic resource with minimal carbon footprint and toxicity. Biodiesel, developed from the transesterification of natural oils, is an ideal candidate to replace petroleum based fuels, yet harbors substantial costs due to its use of homogenous catalysts. However, the inclusion of metal organic frameworks- porous materials made from a three-dimensional network of organic linkers around metal ions, may circumvent these costs. The objective of this thesis is to synthesize linkers, assess their catalytic activity, and test their metalazation as precursors to metal organic frameworks and their future application to biodiesel synthesis

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Going on the Universal trip.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be applying for the FAU Chemistry Ph.D program after taking my GRE exams and gaining more research experience.

Nikki Leali

CONCENTRATION: Data Analytics and Economics

ADVISORS: Dr. Jason Hedetniemi

THESIS: Exploring Partial Domination in Graph Theory

This thesis explores the concept of partial domination in graphs, a variation of classical domination in which only a fixed fraction of the graph's vertices must be dominated. Using Python, we analyze how the size of minimal dominating sets varies for different families of graphs when one-third and two-thirds of the graph must be dominated. The study combines algorithmic computation and visualization to explore structural patterns and lays the groundwork for future theoretical analysis and application to more complex graph classes.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was presenting my academic research to the Fall 2024 College Forum class. It was a full-circle moment–when I was a freshman in that same class, I remember listening to seniors share their projects and thinking how impressive and inspiring they were. This year, I had the opportunity to be that senior, sharing my own work and hopefully inspiring the next generation of students.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I will be continuing at Florida Atlantic University through a 4+1 master's program at the College of Engineering and Computer Science. I have been accepted into the program and plan to transition my focus to a Master's in Data Science and Analytics. I will also be pursuing a minor in Artificial Intelligence, along with certificates in Cybersecurity and Big Data Analytics.

Emerson Lee

CONCENTRATION: Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Vernon

THESIS: Expanding Meditation Options: Freeze Frame and Decision Making

To expand the variety of meditation types researched and available for use in improving mental health, this study examined whether Freeze Frame meditation, a lesser-studied meditation type, increases decision-making capabilities and wellbeing.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Being in the arboretum with my friends, both tree and human.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending graduate school out-of-state for a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

Samantha Leonard

CONCENTRATION: Biology and Environmental Studies

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: Genetic regulation of feeding behavior in *Drosophila melanogaster*

Feeding behavior in *Drosophila melanogaster* was studied using mutants and RNAi downregulation of candidate genes. By comparing their feeding behavior using the Activity Recording CAFE (ARC) assay in adult males, this research reveals genetic mechanisms that alter different aspects of feeding or prandial behavior.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Creating close friendships and sailing daily!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to pursue additional education in biology.

Ethan Levine

CONCENTRATION: Law and Society and Economics

ADVISOR: Dr. Keith Jakee

THESIS: More Harm Than Good: The Unintended Consequences of Government Regulation in the Automotive Industry

Government regulations have played a role in shaping the development of the modern automotive industry. My thesis explores the impact of regulations enforced by agencies such as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and their impact on safety features and environmental sustainability. The study examines ADAS regulations, CAFE standards, and ethanol policies using an analysis of historical and modern policies, revealing problems such as consumer wariness of new technologies and increased financial burdens due to increased costs. Regulations can also indirectly affect the industry, one example being the decline in the availability of manual transmissions, which can negatively impact consumers. This study contributes to the broader issue of regulatory influence in the automotive sector, offering insights for policymakers, manufacturers, and consumers.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My time at the Honors College was pretty much eat, class, and sleep as I didn't allow myself much time for "memories" to be made but instead something I can reflect on. College will be memorable because it was my first taste of freedom. Having the responsibility of living on your own, whether doing laundry, keeping my dorm clean, or being responsible for getting up on time in the morning. I can reflect on how much I have grown as a person in the last 4 years, academically, professionally, and personally. At the end of the day, that is what is most important.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan on applying and hopefully getting accepted to a training program at a financial services company in hopes of becoming a financial advisor. While the goal is to be a financial advisor, I plan to spend the next few months before these programs begin to meet with individuals with financial careers to see what professions best suit me. As for continuing my education, I plan to acquire my MBA if needed in the future.

Nicole Litvinchuk

CONCENTRATION: Behavioral Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Lucia Carvelli

THESIS: Using the Million Mutation Project Strains to Identify Candidate Genes Linked to Abnormal Amphetamine-induced Behaviors

Amphetamine (Amph) is a psychostimulant drug that increases extracellular dopamine at the dopaminergic synapses, making chronic Amph users liable to addiction. This project aims to identify yet uncharacterized candidate genes within the dopaminergic system and their involvement in Amph-induced behaviors. In C. elegans, Amph causes a dopamine-dependent behavior named Swimming induced paralysis (Swip). We used Swip to screen animals for altered Amph response. To facilitate the identification of genes involved in the mechanism of action of Amph, we utilized C. elegans strains from The Million Mutation Project (MMP) bearing random but well-characterized mutations.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories at the Honors College was the incredible opportunity to study abroad in Japan. Immersing myself in the new culture and engaging with diverse perspectives has enriched my academic and personal growth.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am applying to medical school, where I plan to further my education and training to become a compassionate and skilled physician.

Allison MacKenzie

CONCENTRATIONS: Environmental Studies and Women's Studies

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Survey and Analysis of Gopher Tortoise Demographics in Range VIb of the Abacoa Greenway

An analysis of the gopher tortoise population of section 6-B of the Abacoa Greenway, specifically looking at the population distribution and then comparing the individuals to other populations of gopher tortoises in northern locations.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Going to CarnivOwl with my friends!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am currently planning on taking a gap year, then going into a graduate program in environmental or ecological sciences.

Abbagayle Madanat

CONCENTRATION: Law and Society and Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Mark Tunick

THESIS: Citizens United: The 2010 Crisis in the Marketplace of Ideas

In my thesis, I argue that the 2010 Supreme Court Case, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission should be overturned to preserve the marketplace of ideas. Drawing from relevant Court precedents, the Framers' intentions for the First Amendment, the political philosophy of John Stuart Mill, and the attention economy framework, I demonstrate how this decision has allowed undue influences to distort political conversations and the electoral process.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories at the Honors College was the 2024 Spring Formal at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center. After spending months planning this event alongside my wonderful co-workers in Program Board, it was so rewarding to see our hard work come to life and to share this special night with all my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I will be attending law school at the University of Miami.

Gabriella Maxey

CONCENTRATION: Biological Chemistry

ADVISOR: Samantha McGovern

THESIS: Whole-brain Mapping of Neuronal Interleukin-1 Type 1 Receptor in the Mouse Brain

The pro-inflammatory cytokine interleukin-1 (IL-1) has diverse functions within the brain such as facilitating memory and regulating sleep, yet is linked to various psychopathological disorders including depression, anxiety, and PTSD. The IL-1 type 1 receptor (IL-1R1) is the sole receptor of IL-1 and is predominantly expressed on non-neuronal cell types in the brain; however, the existence of IL-1R1 on neurons has been debated due to inconsistent mapping attempts. We generated a specific atlas of neuronal IL-1R1 (nIL-1R1) distribution throughout the brain in global and glutamatergic-neuron-specific IL-1R1 reporter mice. We found that nIL-1R1 is primarily found in brain regions related to sensory and emotional processes. Our results expand the knowledge on the cytoarchitecture of brain nIL-1R1 and kinetics of the receptor's responsiveness, which could be crucial for understanding IL-mediated neuroinflammatory disorders.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Meeting my best friends and growing alongside them these past four years! I'll always cherish our late nights talking to each other about the most random things and going to Taco Bell way too often.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Planning to take the MCAT this summer and gain clinical experience before applying to medical schools next year!

Natasha Mayorga

CONCENTRATION: Biochemistry and Data Analytics

ADVISOR: Dr. Terje Hill

THESIS: Applications of Microscopy in Neuroscience: A Review of Imaging and Analysis Techniques

Neurological disorders remain among the most significant global health challenges, with over 40% of the population suffering from conditions ranging from cognitive impairments to neurodegenerative diseases. Understanding the molecular and structural mechanisms underlying these disorders requires advanced experimental techniques, with microscopy playing a central role in visualizing brain function at cellular levels. Recent technological advancements in neural imaging have exponentially increased data acquisition capabilities, leading to increasingly complex datasets that challenge conventional analysis methods. This thesis explores the intersection of neuroscience and computational image analysis and how advanced methods enable processing, interpretation, and quantification of large-scale neuroscience microscopy datasets.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Integrating into the Honors College neuroscience community on campus through FAU High, Scripps, Max Planck, Neuroexplorers with SNBI, and the ZEISS Solutions Center.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Full-Time Digital Solutions Consulting Analyst at Deloitte Consulting (Government and Public Services).

Jazmin Morris

CONCENTRATION: Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Nancy Jones

THESIS: Investigating the Relationship Between Maternal Mental Health Factors and Mother-infant Interactions

The main goal of this project is to see how mothers' mental health correlates with their display of maternal sensitivity during infant distress tasks. Learning more about this correlation can help us further understand the influence of a mother's mental health on her relationships. Hopefully, with more research, support programs can be improved and created that can educate and help mothers, navigate emotional caregiving for their children.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Playing pool/billiards in the burrow with my friend group and lunch dates in the Alton plaza.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Eventually, I want to get my Ph.D. in clinical psychology, but in the meantime I will continue working in psychology labs to learn more about the field.

Nicholas Moy

CONCENTRATION: Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Overcoming Barriers to Specialized Eye Care Through Intelligent Screening

For my thesis, I conducted a market study to identify barriers that prevent people from getting screened for glaucoma. I focused on factors like convenience, affordability, and patient behavior. Based on the results, I proposed an AI-powered, glaucoma screening solution, Glaucova, which makes early detection more accessible, especially for underserved communities.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Winning an intramural volleyball championship with my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be pursuing medical school.

Gwendolyn Murray

CONCENTRATION: Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Vernon

THESIS: Turning Over a New Leaf: Veteran Perspectives on Mental Health After Wilderness Therapy

Research indicates a high prevalence of psychopathology among veterans, yet they seek treatment at low rates. Our study examined the impact of a 3.5-day Huts for Vets wilderness therapy program on mental health, comparing a control group of 23 veterans to 20 veterans after wilderness therapy. Results showed that the Huts for Vets group reported greater treatment openness, improved social behaviors and attitudes, and better coping skills than the control group, suggesting that wilderness therapy may enhance veterans' mental well-being.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: It's impossible to choose just one favorite memory from my time at the Honors College because so many moments have shaped my experience. I'll always cherish meals shared with friends in the dining hall, where laughter and conversation made even the busiest days feel lighter. I'll never forget battling through pouring rain and hail just to hand-deliver a final paper—a moment of determination (and maybe a little desperation) that perfectly encapsulated the college experience. Hurricane lockdowns turned into unexpected game nights, bringing us closer together in the face of uncertainty. Late nights and early mornings spent refining my thesis and preparing for poster presentations felt less daunting with the unwavering support of my peers and faculty. These moments—big and small—define my time at the Honors College, and I will always look back on them with gratitude.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduating from the Wilkes Honors College, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology or Behavioral Neuroscience. To prepare for this next step, I will take a gap year to strengthen my research experience, refine my academic focus, and dedicate time to graduate school applications. During this period, I aim to gain additional hands-on experience through internships or research opportunities that align with my long-term goal of contributing to advancements in mental health and neuroscience.

Cesar Oneid

CONCENTRATIONS: Interdisciplinary Math

ADVISORS: Dr. Terje Hill

THESIS: Revolutionizing Nuclear Energy: The Importance of Small Modular Reactors In Our Future

My thesis explores how modern advancements in nuclear technology—particularly Small Modular Reactors can address long-standing issues like high costs, long construction times, and safety concerns. It also examines broader challenges such as radioactive waste management, public opposition, resource scarcity, and how nuclear energy fits alongside renewables. Together, these discussions make the case for nuclear power as a necessary part of a clean, reliable, and sustainable energy future.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was Dr. Hill coming into class as santa and handing out extra credit "presents".

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be completing the last year of my 4+1 Masters Mechanical Engineering Program with FAU.

Isabella Passanisi

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

THESIS: Coral Survivorship In Relation To Benthic Interactions In St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

My thesis analyzed hard coral individuals in St. Croix and their interactions with other benthic organisms, such as sponges, to determine whether these interactions had an effect on hard coral survivorship. My results showed that interactions do not affect hard coral survivorship, suggesting that environmental factors may have a greater impact on their survivorship.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memories are the late night breakfasts where I got to hang out with my roommates, eat awesome food, and cram homework.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation I plan on attending graduate school to obtain a MS in marine science. While getting my MS I plan on working at Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Garden as an educator.

Grace Patterson

CONCENTRATION: Law and Society, English Literature and Business Administration

ADVISOR: Mark Tunick, Ph.D.

THESIS: Off the Shelves: Florida's Book Bans and the First Amendment

In recent years, the state of Florida has become a focal point in the national debate over book-banning policies, with Florida Statutes §1006.28 enabling individual parent or resident objections to trigger school-wide removals in K-12 public school libraries and potential county-wide bans. This statute effectively allows a select, vocal minority to dictate what materials remain available to students in public schools, disproportionately shaping public school curricula based on personal biases rather than educational merit. The Florida law distorts individual parental complaints into sweeping, state-sanctioned censorship, raising significant constitutional questions about the First Amendment's limitations on governmental interference in the classroom. I argue that §1006.28 undermines parental authority and violates students' First Amendment protections by imposing overly broad restrictions on diverse perspectives in public education..

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Traveling to Japan, Guatemala, and Spain with lifelong friends and creating unforgettable memories!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending Florida State University's College of Law in the fall.

Emily Peraza

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and French and Francophone Studies

ADVISOR: Dr. Erik Duboué

THESIS: Man, Cut the Crop: Effect of Cropectomies on Survival and Behavior in *Drosophila Melanogaster*

Performing cropectomies in Drosophila melanogaster allowed insight into the gut-brain axis and how the equivalent of the human stomach influences survival and behavior. Cropless flies showed no change in total consumption but ate smaller, more frequent meals and exhibited augmented sleep. This model offers insights into how digestive modifications, such as the sleeve gastrectomy seen in humans, influence metabolism, behavior, and disease.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memories are of meeting my lifelong friends, the Jupiter sunrises, exploring local coffee shops, and many peaceful moments of studying and enjoying music.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I am going to apply to graduate school, and I hope to be able to teach and contribute to the research efforts in the field of neuroscience in the future!

Gabriela Pereira Odisio

CONCENTRATION: Business and Law and Society

ADVISOR: Dr. Mark Tunick

THESIS: State-Imposed Silence: How Anti-Boycott Laws Conflict with Corporate Free Speech

Is the corporate right to boycott protected by the First Amendment? Several states have enacted laws on two specific matters that assume it is not: the (1) boycotting of Israel due to its allegedly illegal occupation of Palestinian territory in the Gaza conflict as outlined by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement; and (2) the rejection of business proposals based on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) concerns. Drawing on decades of judicial precedents establishing expressive association liberties – which have increasingly blurred the distinctions between corporate and individual speech – I argue that state anti-BDS and anti-ESG legislation fail the Supreme Court's First Amendment strict scrutiny test and violate corporate free speech rights.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Late-night study sessions at the computer lab.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending law school to get my JD and pursue a career in corporate law.

Ellie Pfahler

CONCENTRATION: International Studies, Spanish and Environmental Science

ADVISORS: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

THESIS: What Happens to Those Who Stay? The Socioeconomic Impacts of Climate Migration in Guatemala's Dry Corridor

Climate change is damaging the environmental, social, and economic well-being of the Guatemalan Dry Corridor, driving high rates of out migration, poverty, and environmental stress. This thesis argues that migration is a short-term strategy to adapt to climate change but weakens long-term community resilience, supporting the argument that moderate economic gains fail to foster sustainable development and long-standing community stability. I recommend policies and practices that reinvest economic gains back into community infrastructure to s.ee socioeconomic development in Guatemala's Dry Corridor.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Playing campus-wide games of manhunt.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will take a gap year while working for a non-profit, and attend UNC Chapel Hill the following year, getting my Master's in Public Administration.

Ava Pitts

CONCENTRATION: Marine Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Cetacean Respiratory Pathology: Insights from Strandings along the Southeastern Florida Coast

For my honors thesis, I examined respiratory pathology in 47 stranded cetaceans along Florida's southeastern coast (2013–2024). Of these, 68% showed respiratory issues—most commonly pulmonary edema (48.4%), fibrosis (44.7%), and atelectasis (40.4%). Adult cetaceans more frequently had congestion and fibrosis. Lung parasites, pneumonia, lymphadenopathy, and fibrosis were significantly more common in strandings from the Indian River Lagoon. These findings offer insight into cetacean health and support conservation efforts.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory during my time here was starting up my social venture Enviro Hours, and winning $10,000 in seed funding.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I will be attending the University of Miami for graduate school to achieve a masters degree in marine mammal science.

Katie Poquette

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience and Biochemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Lucia Carvelli

THESIS: Identifying Novel Genes Implicated in the Mechanism of Action of Amphetamine Using Mutated Caenorhabditis elegans from the Million Mutation Project

Amphetamine (Amph) is a common psychostimulant drug used to treat a variety of neurological disorders, such as ADHD and narcolepsy. This drug is also known to be highly addictive when used recreationally due to its ability to increase the levels of extracellular dopamine (DA) released in the brain's reward system. The mammalian dopaminergic (DAergic) pathway is a multipart and complex system. For this reason, simpler model systems are often used. Here we perform a screen to identify novel genes that encode proteins involved in the mechanism of action of Amph by using mutated Caenorhabditis elegans obtained from the Million Mutation Project (MMP). In response to high concentrations of extracellular DA, wild-type C. elegans exhibit a behavior known as swimming-induced paralysis (Swip) when exposed to Amph. Using the Swip assay, a behavioral tool used to measure rates of paralysis at a basal level and in response to drug exposure, we seek to investigate how the presence of mutations of specific proteins impacts how Amph alters the chemical transmission at DAergic synapses. Our data show that the VC20048 and VC40358 lines exhibit an altered behavioral response to Amph, suggesting that these lines are mutated in one or more genes required by Amph. In testing single-gene knockout strains selected from the many mutated genes offered by the MMP mutants, we found that the lev-1 knockout worms exhibit the same altered behavioral response that we characterized in the VC20048 mutant, including DA-mediated basal Swip and DA-independent Amph-induced Swip, suggesting that this gene is responsible for this abnormal phenotype seen in those mutants. Ongoing experiments aim to validate this finding and identify additional genes involved in Amph response, providing new insights into the molecular pathways underlying the effects of Amph.s, as the wearer is perceived to have the traits associated with them.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Going on field trips and taking wildlife photos in my Scientific Illustration class.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be taking a working gap year before applying to medical schools.

Surina Prem

CONCENTRATION: Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Shaina Rowell

THESIS: Early Intervention for Trauma: The SNAP Approach

My research focuses on how free therapy interventions like SNAP can be more integrated into school settings. SNAP stands for Stop, Now, and Plan, and it is based on cognitive behavioral therapy. SNAP helps children emotionally regulate themselves by teaching them how to use calming thoughts in stressful or anger-provoking situations.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: I don't have one specific memory, but I had a wonderful time meeting friends with such a diverse group of students and professors. Additionally, the Morton Scholarship provided me with many wonderful opportunities, including networking with professors, fellow students, and donors.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I was offered a job during the Spring semester of 2025. I am currently working at the Center for Child Counseling as a Mental Health Specialist. I plan to continue working there after graduation. I also plan to attend law school after graduation.

Alison Reese

CONCENTRATION: Mathematics

ADVISOR: Dr. Jason Hedetniemi

THESIS: Predictive Popularity Possibility: Predicting Netflix Popularity in South Korea

To analyze the popularity of South Korean media in other Asian countries on Netflix using the given top rank and the number of weeks present in the top 10.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Sharing each other's favorite video game music with my suite mates in the dorm.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I have been accepted to the Master of Science with Major in Data Science and Analytics (MSDSA) at Florida Atlantic University.

Lauren Reynolds

CONCENTRATION: Psychology and Data Analytics

ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin Lanning

THESIS: Linguistic Analysis of User Narratives and Community-Rated Moral Judgments on Reddit's r/AmITheAsshole

Reddit's AmITheAsshole is a popular online forum for users present moral dilemmas and receive community feedback, with designations such as "You're the Asshole" (YTA), "Not the Asshole" (NTA), "Everyone Sucks Here" (ES), and "No Assholes Here" (NAH). My thesis explores how linguistic characteristics in user narratives influence community-rated moral judgment. It examines how variations in moral language related to harm, fairness, authority, purity, and loyalty, as defined by the Moral Foundations Dictionary, correlate with assessments of blameworthiness. Further analysis with other natural language processing tools identifies additional characteristics associated with different classes of moral judgment. The extracted linguistic features are then utilized in supervised classification models to predict community-rated judgments. These findings offer insight into how linguistic features influence the perception of ethical behavior and blame in online communities.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memories are Sailing Day and the Universal trips.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to further my education and research experiences in the areas of youth mental health, emotional regulation, and school-based mental health programming. My goal is to pursue these interests through research assistantships and graduate studies in Clinical Psychology.

Alaina Rumrill

CONCENTRATION: Cellular Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

THESIS: Igniting Serotonin: Sources and Receptors in the Fire Sponge Tedania Ignis

My honors thesis investigates the origin of serotonin in the marine sponge Tedania ignis by comparing serotonin concentrations in sponge and microbial cell fractions. Her research aims to identify the primary source of serotonin and analyze the presence of serotonin synthesis genes, Tph, Tph2, and Trh, using molecular techniques. This work explores the potential role of neurotransmitters in the symbiotic relationship between sponges and their microbial communities.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Sailing Day

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Alaina will be preparing to attend medical school with the goal of becoming a dermatologist.

Mark Salgado

CONCENTRATION: Political Science

ADVISORS: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

THESIS: The South Florida Latino Vote: A Political Powerhouse in Transition

My thesis explores the Cuban, Puerto Rican and Dominican vote in South Florida to better understand the salient factors affecting their voting pattern.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories would be my involvement in the diplomacy program and playing ping pong in the burrow.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: My future plans are to go to law school and I am currently an intern for King Morse Criminal Law.

Martha Sanchez Montiel

CONCENTRATION: Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Microbiological Consequences of Oral Lesions: Implications for Dental Health and Treatment Strategies

The thesis focuses on the link between oral health and other systemic health issues, especially how stress can lead to habits that interrupt the balance of bacteria in the mouth. Studies show how Morsicatio Buccarium low-risk oral lesions due to chronic cheek biting can disrupt the oral microbiome and increase the risk of periodontitis or oral cancer. The study shows why detecting these problems early with regular checkups is so important.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: I always felt accomplished after a long day of studying in the library alone or with friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending to Dental School to pursue a DMD/DDS.

Gael Sanon

CONCENTRATION: Biological and Physical Sciences

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot and Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: From High Ground to Flooded Terrain: Vertebrates in Gopher Tortoise Microhabitats

My thesis examines the diversity of vertebrates utilizing gopher tortoise burrows in the Abacoa Greenway and how species composition differs between seasonally flooded and non-flooded burrows. Using DNA metabarcoding of soil samples and phylogenetic analysis of the 18S rRNA gene, this study identifies vertebrate species present in each microhabitat. Understanding these differences provides insight into the ecological role of gopher tortoises as ecosystem engineers and the impact of habitat conditions on burrow use.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was one night when my friends and I were studying in the RH1 lounge. A few more friends happened to find us up there, and instead of studying, we all ended up talking for hours. Eventually, we got so comfortable that we all fell asleep on the couches together.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to attend medical school to pursue a career in anesthesiology. I am currently preparing for the MCAT and will be applying to medical programs in the upcoming cycle. During my gap year, I plain on gaining more clinical experience, traveling, and developing essential life skills before starting medical school.

Kimberly Schweiger

CONCENTRATIONS: Biological Chemistry and Mathematics

ADVISOR: Dr. Eugene Smith

THESIS: Developing a Microcontroller-Based Data Acquisition System to Measure pH

For decades, scientists have been making their own laboratory equipment to conduct experiments, and as equipment has improved, the information that can be obtained from such equipment has also increased significantly, but the cost of such equipment has also increased. Data acquisition (DAQ) systems are commonly used equipment in labs, and they consist of sensors, measurement devices, and computers. The project aims to develop a DAQ system to measure pH using a combination electrode, Raspberry Pi Pico microcontroller, a printed circuit board (PCB), and a computer.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite honors college memory has been hanging out with my friends at Universal.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to go to graduate school and pursue a career Biomedical Engineering research.

Calyssa Setterberg

CONCENTRATION: Psychology and Anthropology

ADVISOR: Dr. Shaina Rowell

THESIS: Remembering Fear: Using the Horror Genre to Explore Emotional Complexity in Autobiographical Memory

Autobiographical memories play a variety of functions in day-to-day life, from guiding future behaviors to helping form social relationships. Emotions hold a direct influence on how autobiographical memories are remembered and used, such as positive emotions leading to a more vivid and detailed memory recall experience. Little research has been conducted for complex and conflicting emotional experiences. The present study seeks to apply various theoretical frameworks to autobiographical memories of viewing horror films.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memories have been dancing in the Owlettes Spring Showcase each year. Being able to practice and perform with some of my closest friends and sharing my love of dance with everyone has been such an incredible experience!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I will be completing an Internship with Carnival Cruise Lines.

Nicholas Schaffer

CONCENTRATION: Biological Chemistry

ADVISOR: Dr. Chitra Chandrasekhar

THESIS: Therapeutic Targeting of mGlyR for Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder

My thesis is focused on finding a new treatment for major depressive disorder. It focuses on testing the efficacy of this treatment in a mouse model of depression, targeting the receptor known as mGlyR.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: When we were on the Universal Trip in 2023 and we watched the FAU basketball team win as we all ate ice cream together.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending medical school at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University as an MD candidate.

Sarah Singh

CONCENTRATION: Biological and Physical Sciences

ADVISORS: Dr. Kelsie Bernot and Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Detection of *Mycoplasma agassizii* and *Mycoplasma testudineum* in Abacoa's Gopher Tortoise Aggregation

The increasing decline in the Gopher tortoise population has been linked to several factors, including the contraction of Upper Respiratory Tract Disease (URTD). This disease can present mild symptoms, affecting the ocular and nasal regions, or lack any presence of symptoms. Direct contact during mating increases the tortoises' vulnerability to infection significantly. As previous research linked Mycoplasma agassizii and Mycoplasma testudineum as pathogenic agents for infection, my thesis aimed to detect current and past infections of these bacteria through the incorporation of PCR and ELISA testing in the Abacoa Greenway aggregation.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory at the Honors College is all the interactions I have had with fellow colleagues and the faculty members. These interactions have influenced my career goals, as it has broadened my perspective of different areas in medicine.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I intend to pursue an M.D. program with an interest in the field of pathology.

Mackenzie Stowell

CONCENTRATION: Psychology

ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Vernon

THESIS: Repeat Consumption of Media: How Does It Affect Our Stress?

I am looking into the TV watching habits of college students and specifically looking into those who rewatch TV, measuring their stress levels, and trying to see if rewatching TV can be considered a coping mechanism.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Meeting my roommate, who I've lived with for going on 3 years.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I somewhat have a job lined up. I intend to start substitute teaching, and eventually when I get my teaching certification, I want to teach either AP Psychology or History at the high school level. My dad works at a high school and is good friend with the principle, who I've met and get along with. He says I practically have a job guaranteed when I'm ready. Eventually I'll go back to school for my MA to become a Guidance Counsellor.

Karina Syc

CONCENTRATION: History and Spanish Literature

ADVISOR: Dr. Christopher Ely

THESIS: Palace to Public: The Revolutionary Origins of Museums in France and Russia

My thesis delves into the history of two of the most famous art museums in the world: The Louvre and the Hermitage. I discuss their imperial history, revolutionary discourse, and the founding of these museums.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory would have to be when I studied abroad in Spain last year. Especially visiting the art museums and getting to know other Spanish learners!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending graduate school to pursuer a career in museums. Still undecided on which program.

Odett Terrazas

CONCENTRATION: Writing

ADVISOR: Dr. Rachel Luria and Dr. Nancy Tille-Victorica

THESIS: Fragments of Meaning: Modernist Translation and Its Impact on the Publishing Industry

This thesis examines how modernist poets Pound, Eliot, and Yeats reshaped literary translation by prioritizing subjectivity, cultural synthesis, and artistic innovation over strict fidelity. A deconstructionist lens demonstrates to us why embracing innovation remains crucial for the publishing industry today.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite memories was our yearly Reading Week tradition, where a group of friends and I spent 16 hours at the Burrow from open to close, studying, playing games, and watching movies. It'll be a lifelong reminder of how easy it was to make friends in college when all it took was a shared space and a long night.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: During my time at the Honors College, I interned as a newsletter writer for libraries, which sparked my interest in digital marketing. Since then, I've been building my clientele as a freelance digital marketer, refining my skills in email marketing, content strategy, and SEO. My goal is to break into the publishing industry with a marketing edge.

Christian Testorf

CONCENTRATION: Wildlife Conservation

ADVISOR: Dr. Jon Moore

THESIS: Comparative Analysis of Vocal Performance in Male Bachman's Sparrows

ABSTRACT: I am looking at how the vocal performance changes in Bachman's sparrows during a simulated territorial intrusion compared to baseline singing.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: laying basketball with my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Find a seasonal wildlife technician position or job in environmental consulting.

Kaiya Tomasik

CONCENTRATION: Neuroscience

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: Investigating the Genetic Susceptibility of Cancer in Gopher Tortoises

Studies have shown duplicated copies of tumor suppressing genes in tortoise species could possibly contribute to their rare susceptibility of cancer. I am investigating if the WT1, a tumor suppressor, gene is present in Gopher Tortoises.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: Going to Universal with my friends

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: Graduate school for an MS, program is currently unknown as I haven't gotten decisions back yet.

Elena Tonkin

CONCENTRATION: Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Kelsie Bernot

THESIS: Anaplasma phagocytophilum's effect on Gopher Tortoises of South East Florida

Recent studies have revealed *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* as a new pathogen that has started to affect gopher tortoise populations throughout Florida. This study investigated how the pathogen, A. phagocytophilum, has potentially begun to spread amongst the gopher tortoises in the Abacoa Greenway and the Florida Atlantic University Preserve (FAUP).

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory has to be when my roommates and I decided to go kayaking on the Loxahatchee River. I was in a single kayak, while my two roommates, Priscilla and Gabby, were in a tandem kayak. What we didn't realize was how strong the current was, and when we tried to turn around, my friends flipped their kayak. I had to jump into the brackish water (with the alligators!) to help them. Afterward, we switched kayaks— I paired up with Gabby in the tandem, and Priscilla took the single. I'll never forget arriving at shore to find her kayak completely covered in spiders. Despite the chaos, it's still my favorite and funniest memory to date.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: After graduation, I plan to pursue my passion for animal care by attending veterinary school. In the meantime, while I work on my applications, I will be working to gain more experience and save for graduate school.

Edward Vorobiev

CONCENTRATION: Business and Data Science

ADVISOR: Dr. Keith Jakee

THESIS: The SEC's ESG Disclosure Mandate: A Threat to Investor Protection and Market Competition

The SEC's ESG disclosure mandate fails to achieve its goals in enhancing investor protection will harm its affected industries. I draw on fragmented critiques against the ruling itself and specific aspects of ESG, ESG disclosure, and their effects on corporate performance. The thesis brings previous analysis together with my own to determine that the SEC actually harms investors and corporations; specifically harming small-and-medium-sized enterprises.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: When I competed for the school in the AMCA Moot Court competition under Professor Feuer. We drove up to UCF to compete in a tournament bracket with some other amazing schools. It was a lot of fun learning some constitutional legal theory and case law with my team. It was also a fantastic opportunity to practice intense public speaking and argumentation.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: For Summer I plan on attending an internship and seminar program with the Hudson Institute studying political theory, political philosophy, and policymaking. I am hoping to delve deeper into economics with the government or a research institute like Hudson. I also am in the process of joining FPL's rotational program to gain more experience in multiple fields of business.

Fate Walls

CONCENTRATION: English Literature

ADVISOR: Dr. Michael Harrawood

THESIS: The New Academic Weapon: Censorship of LGBTQ+ Media from the Youth

The news of book bans are no longer a surprise to the members of our nation. What is even less of a surprise is that the target of these book bans also include anything containing members of the LGBTQ+ community. Book bans are not the only media being censored to the youth. Between court cases and television shows, such as "Spongebob Squarepants", the youth of today are often exposed to a variety of complexities in relation to the community. It is imperitive that we eliminate barriers censoring LGBTQ+ relationships and identities. This thesis argues that children's shows, literature, and overall media present nuclear families as a method of swaying children away from diversity in their most formative years, forming stereotypes and standardized versions of adult relationships. We do the children of our nation a disservice in censoring any and all information that should be readily available to them while also pushing a hateful agenda.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory was meeting and growing with my best friend, Darcy. Between the study sessions, dining hall meals, and hilarious shows watched together, getting such a great friend that I will have for life is my greatest memory.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I plan to travel the world and search for a dream job in book publishing along the way.

Sofia Wasilewski

CONCENTRATIONS: Cellular Neuroscience and Transdisciplinary Visual Art

ADVISORS: Dr. Catherine Trivigno, Dr. Randy D. Blakely, Dorotha Lemeh and Dr. Wairimũ Njambi

THESIS 1: Is PKG-mediated phosphorylation of SERT at Thr276 required for modulation of SERT trafficking by NOS/NO/cGMP pathway?

Serotonergic dysfunction has been implicated in various neuropsychiatric disorders, including autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The presynaptic serotonin transporter (SERT) mediates the clearance and availability of serotonin (5-HT), a neurotransmitter that modulates mood, cognition, and social behavior. Past research found that SERT activity and trafficking have been shown to be regulated through phosphorylation at Thr276, a site targeted by protein kinase G (PKG). The Ala276 mutation substitutes a Thr at position 276 with an Ala, preventing SERT phosphorylation at this site, and abolishing PKG-induced changes. Ala276 mice exhibited reduced sociability, a core symptom of ASD. Using 8-Bromo-cGMP, an analog of cyclic guanosine monophosphate(cGMP) which activates PKG, we investigate the importance of PKG-mediated phosphorylation in the nitric oxide synthase (nNOS)/nitric oxide (NO)/cGMP pathway.

THESIS 2: More Than Just Labels: Crafting Comfort and Authenticity in Intersecting Otherness

Gender, sexuality, and autism: words seldom spoken together, let alone illustrated. Thankfully, this is changing, and this artistic journey will hopefully contribute to this change. Drawing from contemporary papers in the fields of gender studies, disability studies, and psychology, as well as the lived experiences of adults with ASD, this body of work aims to bring awareness and acceptance to the underrepresented intersections of gender, sexuality, and neurodiversity. Studying factors such as sensory differences, unique perspectives on the concept of gender itself, community, and individualized needs and preferences and how they all may culminate in various outcomes in the context of gender identity and sexuality can be a difficult task, especially

with the diversity of human experiences and social stigmas around the topic of sexuality. Using visual media with a combination of experimental, representative, and abstract stylization will make the topic more accessible to a general audience by expressing emotion and concept in a way that written and spoken language often struggles to compete with.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memories from the WHC include going on field trips with Dr. Moore and Professor Lemeh's Audubon Illustration course and going to the movies with my friends.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: At the moment, I plan to take a year off to travel and decide where I want to apply for graduate school.

Tarruck Wheeler

CONCENTRATION: International Studies

ADVISOR: Dr. Mark Tunick

THESIS: The Role of Language Models in Supporting Dyslexic Students

My thesis examines how AI language models, such as GPT, can transform dyslexia support by simplifying text, providing real-time feedback, and personalizing reading instruction. It reviews global dyslexia prevalence, neurobiological findings, and successful case studies, then discusses key ethical concerns—access, bias, and overreliance—to propose responsible AI policies that enhance literacy while preserving learner autonomy.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite Honors College memory took shape in the scorching heat of Tikal, Guatemala, where our small group of classmates ventured beyond the classroom to make a tangible difference. Surrounded by the lush rainforest and ancient Mayan ruins, we worked together—perspiration and excitement intertwined—to help local students gain better educational opportunities The highlight was pooling resources and organizing fundraising efforts so these young learners in rural Guatemala could have reliable internet access and computers. It was in that steamy jungle, amidst breathtaking scenery and heartwarming interactions, that I truly felt the transformative power of both education and collaboration.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I've applied to several joint MBA/MPP programs and MS programs in AI, though I haven't decided which path to pursue yet. I'm excited about the possibilities each program offers and will update everyone as soon as I decide.

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India Williams

CONCENTRATION: Business and Data Analytics

ADVISOR: Dr. Kanybek Nu-tegin

THESIS: A Predictive Model For Cryptocurrency Transaction Fraud Using Logistic Regression

My thesis examines cryptocurrency fraud using predictive modeling, specifically multinomial logistic regression. By analyzing blockchain transaction data from the Elliptic++ dataset, it aims to identify key indicators of illicit activity, such as high transaction frequency, small amounts, and elevated fees. The finding in this thesis contribute to improving fraud detection systems and enhancing regulatory measures in the ever-growing cryptocurrency space.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: My favorite memory was winning 'Man Hunt' with my friends and doing Secret Santa (and playing kickball) with my freshman cohort.

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be pursuing a masters degree in digital forensics accounting and data analytics at FAU's graduate school.

Kayla Win

CONCENTRATION: Biology

ADVISOR: Dr. Tracy Mincer

THESIS: Usage of Immunohistochemistry and Behavioral Tests to Gauge the Role of Cholesterol Dysregulation in Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a chronic and lethal disease that imposes an enormous economic and social burden worldwide. The popular amyloid hypothesis is questionable in the case of sporadic AD (sAD). Evidence has pointed to the dysregulation of lipids in the brain, especially cholesterol (Chol), during aging. Laboratory methods such as immunohistochemistry and fluorescence intensity analysis allow for the study of molecular and cellular changes in brain tissue samples. Immunofluorescence labeling was used to distinguish between two types of brain cells, neurons and astrocytes, and gauge their cellular Chol regulation by measuring the amount and distribution of SREBP2. A set of motor and memory tests were conducted to gauge the cognitive and sensorimotory functions of APP/KO mice to compare them with age-matched male and female C57B6/J mice (control). The mice were tested side-by-side for a fair comparison. All data was statistically analyzed and plotted with Graphad Prism and RStudio. ANOVA, followed by post-hoc comparison tests, were used to identify statistically significant differences across different groups.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: One of my favorite Honors College memories is finding a group of people to play Dungeons and Dragons weekly with on campus. It was definitely the highlight of many stressful weeks! I enjoyed every moment spent with friends, though!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be taking a gap year to work as a paid veterinary technician/assistant to save money and get more work experience. Then, I will either apply for a DVM, PhD or Master's program. I want to pursue a career that allows me to explore my passion for animal physiology, comparative medicine, and/or integrative biology.

ZaKiyah Word

CONCENTRATION: Mathematics

ADVISOR: Dr. Warren McGovern

THESIS: The Musical Connection to Math

Looking at how music can help students understand math.

FAVORITE HONORS COLLEGE MEMORY: The last Owlettes Showcase!

AFTER GRADUATION PLANS: I will be attending the Disney College Program after graduation.

Medallion Ceremony Awards 2025

HARRIET L. WILKES HONORS COLLEGE AWARDS

Calyssa Setterberg
Outstanding Senior

Samatha Reyes
Outstanding Junior

James Lee
Outstanding Sophomore

Blaine Naylor
Outstanding First Year

Maya Clarke
Outstanding Scholar

Allison MacKenzie
Distinguished Service Award

Ellie Pfahler
Distinguished Community Service

2025 Outstanding Thesis Awards

Pricilla Agrinsoni
Advisor: Dr. Daniel de Lill

Madelyn Brooker
Advisor: Dr. Jon Moore

Maya Clarke
Advisors: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

Luiz Do Prado
Advisor: Dr. Keith Jakee

Vesal Farsian
Advisor: Dr. Erik Duboué and Dr. Daniel Nemeth,

Alexandra Fernandez
Advisor: Dr. Julie Earles

Michael Green

Erin Hajostek

Angie Jurado
Advisor: Dr. Keith Jakee

Bria Kuntz
Advisor: Dr. Jon Moore

Abbagayle Madanat
Advisors: Dr. Mark Tunick

Gabriella Maxey
Advisor: Samantha McGovern

Gwendolyn Murray
Advisor: Dr. Laura Vernon

Ellie Pfahler
Advisor: Dr. Timothy Steigenga

Katie Poquette
Advisor: Dr. Lucia Carvelli

Alaina Rumrill
Advisors: Dr. Andia Chaves-Fonnegra

Joshua Sadule

Calyssa Setterberg
Advisor: Dr. Shaina Rowell

Notes and Thoughts