

# **NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

**NRHC**

**THE HAVEN OF HONORS:  
Cultivating Innovative, Upstanding, and  
Impactful Leaders**

**March 26-29, 2026**



**CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2026**

**#NRHC2026**



# #NRHC2026 Conference-at-a-Glance

MARCH 26 - MARCH 29, 2026

26 THURS	27 FRI	28 SAT	29 SUN
<p><b>OPENING EVENT</b></p> <p>Join us for an Opening Talk with Holocaust survivor Andy Sarkany. Students will learn about being upstanders of social justice.</p> <p>6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>STUDENT GAME NIGHT</b></p> <p>Start the conference in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Meet new folks!</p> <p>8:30 PM TO 10 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>FACULTY EVENT: SOCIAL HOUR</b></p> <p>Our faculty reps will be hosting a social hour to kick of the conference for professionals in an engaging way!</p> <p>8:30 PM TO 9:30 PM TEMPLE</p>	<p><b>CAT OPENING &amp; EXPLORATIONS</b> </p> <p>Join Colin Caplan as we kick off exploring New Haven!</p> <p>8:30 AM TO 3 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>PUBLISHING IN HONORS</b></p> <p>Find out how to get published as a professional or student!</p> <p>3 PM TO 4 PM TEMPLE</p> <hr/> <p><b>PERFORMING ARTS &amp; FILM SHOWCASE</b></p> <p>Witness some amazing film and performing arts presentations!</p> <p>4 PM TO 5 PM TEMPLE</p> <hr/> <p><b>NRHC EXPO &amp; ART GALLERY</b></p> <p>Interface with grad schools and vendors while enjoying student artwork! Get a professional headshot, too!</p> <p>5 PM TO 6:30 PM COLLEGE</p> <hr/> <p><b>BANQUET &amp; KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> </p> <p>7 PM TO 9 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <p>Dr. Carolyn Macica is our keynote speaker this year. Enjoy dinner and her remarks.</p> <hr/> <p><b>STUDENT EVENT: KARAOKE NIGHT</b></p> <p>Sing or spectate--just come and hang out.</p> <p>9 PM TO 11:30 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p>	<p><b>BREAKFAST</b> </p> <p>Enjoy breakfast before our big presentation day!</p> <p>7:30 AM TO 8:15 AM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>SESSIONS 1 &amp; 2</b></p> <p>Academic Panel and Roundtable Presentations all morning!</p> <p>8:30 AM TO 9:45 AM 10 AM TO 11:15 AM BREAKOUT ROOMS</p> <hr/> <p><b>PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON</b> </p> <p>NRHC President Dr. Jessica McCort will deliver her address over lunch.</p> <p>11:30 AM TO 12:45 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>POSTER SESSION 1</b></p> <p>Check out amazing poster presentations.</p> <p>1 PM TO 2:15 PM COLLEGE/WHITNEY</p> <hr/> <p><b>FACULTY DEVELOPMENT HOUR</b></p> <p>This is a new conference feature with idea exchanges, roundtables, and posters about--all about honors!</p> <p>1:30 PM TO 2:30 PM TEMPLE</p> <hr/> <p><b>SESSIONS 3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p>2:45 PM TO 4 PM 4:15 PM TO 5:30 PM BREAKOUT ROOMS</p> <hr/> <p>Academic Panel and Roundtable Presentations all afternoon!</p> <hr/> <p><b>STUDENT GALA: SECRET SOCIETY</b> </p> <p>The Student Reps have planned a party! Come and celebrate your conference success!</p> <p>8:30 PM TO 11:59 PM GRAND BALLROOM</p>	<p><b>NRHC BUSINESS MEETING</b></p> <p>Join the Executive Board to discuss the latest business of our region.</p> <p>7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM TEMPLE</p> <hr/> <p><b>BREAKFAST &amp; POSTER SESSION 2</b> </p> <p>Check out amazing poster presentations and have breakfast!</p> <p>8:30 AM TO 9:45 AM GRAND BALLROOM</p> <hr/> <p><b>AWARDS CEREMONY</b></p> <p>Join us to celebrate awardees and nominees for multiple awards. See the torch passed as we get ready for #NRHC2027!</p> <p>10 AM TO 10:45 AM GRAND BALLROOM</p>
<p><b>FEEDBACK?</b></p> <p>We want to hear from you! Email us with any concerns or questions at:</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@nrhchonors.com">info@nrhchonors.com</a></p>		<p><b>CROWN</b></p> <p><b>MULTIPURPOSE SPACE (MEDITATION, STUDY, ETC.)</b></p> <p>Available all conference! Come to this space to decompress, pray, or just take a break</p>	
<p><b>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION &amp; INFO DESK PRE-ASSEMBLY (OUTSIDE GRAND BALLROOM)</b></p> <p>Thursday: 3 PM to 9 PM Friday: 7:45 AM to 5 PM Saturday: 7:45 AM to 12 PM</p> <p> = Denotes refreshments and food available</p>		<p><b>USE #NRHC2026 ON SOCIAL MEDIA</b></p>	

# **THURSDAY, MARCH 26**

**Opening Event: Andy Sarkany  
Thursday  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

Please join us for this very special opening event with Holocaust survivor Endre (Andy) Sarkany.

Endre (Andy) Sarkany was born in Budapest, Hungary, on October 31, 1936. The building he lived in was located inside the Budapest ghetto, which is where he remained during the Holocaust. The building housed a nursery/kindergarten on the ground floor. The school was affiliated with the Jewish Agency of Hungary and was led by Mr. Eugene Polnay. The building also housed on the top floor a dance, acrobat, and ballet studio. These facts were significant in Endre's survival and that of at least 150 orphaned children. Endre's father was taken to Mauthausen concentration camp in the spring of 1944, fortunately he did survive. After WWII, Hungary became a communist nation. Although Endre graduated high school in 1955, he was not accepted to university because he was deemed an undesirable element of society. This label was given to anyone who owned a business before the communists took over the country.

Endre was fortunate to escape Hungary after the October 1956 uprising and was able to immigrate to the United States. He received his bachelor's degree from Tusculum College in Tennessee and his Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Endre worked for both the McDonald Douglas Corporation and the IBM Corporation.

Over the past 10 years, Endre has been speaking to students about his personal experiences during the Holocaust, living under the brutality of the Soviet regime in Hungary, and finding a home in the United States.

Mr. Sarkany is married, has a daughter and son, and five grandchildren.

**Student Event: Game Night  
Thursday  
8:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

Join us Thursday Night for fun trivia and Jeopardy!

Go head-to-head in a battle of interesting trivia and Jeopardy skills, while getting to know your peers along the way.

Small prizes will be awarded to the first three places, but the real victory is the bragging rights you get from knowing silly trivia and having fun!

The dress code is casual, so pull up in your best sweatpants and get ready to have fun! Light refreshments will be provided.



**Faculty Event: Social Hour  
Thursday  
8:30 PM to 10:00 PM  
Temple**

Join us to meet and talk with other Honors deans, directors, faculty, and professional staff.

# **FRIDAY, MARCH 27**

## **CAT Opening & Explorations Friday**

**8:30 AM to 3:00 PM**

**Grand Ballroom ABC**

**Opening Speaker: Colin Caplan**

Colin M. Caplan is an entrepreneur, architect, author, historian, educator, and tour operator running Taste of New Haven food tours and events, Elm City Party Bike and Paddle Pub cruises, as well as tour operations in Florida. He is the author of six books on New Haven history, including Pizza in New Haven. He is a National Historic Register consultant and was a visiting professor at Wesleyan University.

Caplan's work as a film and media producer includes the documentaries Pizza, a Love Story (2019) and Slice of America (2024). He spearheaded declaring New Haven the Pizza Capital of the United States, making Connecticut the Pizza State, and creating the Connecticut Pizza License Plate. Caplan holds the Guinness World Records title for Largest Pizza Party and was featured on 60 Minutes.

Caplan continues to help build and raise his native Elm City through teaching students, researching & writing history, and providing opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents through grants and events.



## **Publishing in Honors**

**Friday**

**3:00 pm to 4:00 PM**

**Temple**

For professionals, these publications include the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council (JNCHC), HIP (HIP), and NCHC monographs.

For students, we will touch on the NCHC's student publication UReCA and our regional publication, Illuminate.

## **Performing Arts & Film Showcase**

**Friday**

**4:00 pm to 5:00 PM**  
**Temple**

**Moderator: Kathryn Macdonald**

“Beyond the Athlete Short Documentary”  
*Skye Goba, Fitchburg State University*

“The Decommodification of Queer Bodies of Color: A Historical Examination of Colonialism’s Impact on African and American-Indigenous Music and Dance to the 21st Century”  
*Xinozea Ferguson-Giscombe, SUNY Buffalo State University*

“A Collection of Pure Horror Short Stories”  
*Ashia Reid, Rowan University*

“Roots to Voices: Stories of the Ancestors”  
*Tyrese Fletcher-Hewlett, Bloomfield College of Montclair State University*



**NRHC Expo & Art Gallery**  
**Friday**  
**5:00 pm to 6:00 PM**  
**College**

Join us for the NRHC Art Gallery and Expo, where you can explore artwork shared by your fellow participants and connect with graduate programs.

**Banquet & Keynote: Dr. Carolyn M. Macica**  
**Friday**  
**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**  
**Grand Ballroom ABC**

Carolyn M. Macica, MS, PhD, is the Director of Research Operations and Development at Connecticut Children's Research Institute (CCRI). She also serves as Co-Director for the Scientific Center for Rare Diseases at CCRI. Dr. Macica completed her doctoral training in pharmacology at New York Medical College, followed by post-doctoral fellowships in pharmacology/neuroscience and endocrinology at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Macica is a Professor at the University of Connecticut and maintains joint appointments at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine and Yale University School of Medicine. In addition to her commitment to medical education, Dr. Macica is a funded research scientist in basic, clinical, and translational research in rare metabolic disorders. She has published many peer-reviewed journal articles in top-ranked journals and authored several textbook chapters in bone biology and disease. She has presented her research in regional, national, and international meetings and served on professional advisory committees. She also serves as a scientific advisor, educator, and advocate for patients and families who are impacted by rare diseases. Notably, Dr. Macica chairs and executes an annual CME-accredited Rare Disease Day Symposium. She maintains a strong commitment to the creation and execution of STEM and mentoring programs for underrepresented youth in Connecticut and has been recognized for work in this domain.



**Student Event: Karaoke Night**  
**9:00 PM to 11:30 PM**  
**Grand Ballroom ABC**

Join us Friday Night for a night to let loose and let the hotel hear us sing! Karaoke Night always brings out the best in us. Make us cry with a ballad; make us laugh with a stunning rendition of "Never Gonna Give You Up"; or, at the very least, sing and make merry with the rest of us as we entertain each other and sing our hearts out. No prizes tonight, but everyone is a winner if you're having fun! There is no dress code, so show up in whatever makes you most excited to sing. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Additionally, there will be a swag swap! So bring your Honors Swag and get to share fun tote bags, stickers, pens, and whatever else you want to swap with other universities!** Everyone can leave with at least one fun item.

# **SATURDAY, MARCH 28**

**Breakfast  
Saturday  
7:30 AM to 8:15 AM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

Join us for a full sit-down breakfast. First-come, first-served!



**Session 1  
Saturday  
8:30 AM to 9:45 AM  
Breakout Rooms**

## **Academic Panel Presentations**

### **Chapel A**

**Intersectional Leadership: Exploring Interdisciplinary and Historical Factors**

**Moderator: Cheryl Campo**

“The History and Evolution of the Psychoanalytic Movement in America”

*Leah Sealey, Frederick Community College*

“Leadership Across Identities: Intersectionality’s Role in Shaping Social Movements and Policy”

*Maanya Pande, University of Connecticut*

“Recognizing the Financial Contributions of Women in the History of Dentistry”

*Faiza Ansari, Thomas Jefferson University*

“Remembering Honor: Japan’s Postwar Identity Between Victimhood and the ‘Wartime Spirit’”

*Katherine Frost, United States Air Force Academy*

## **Chapel B**

### **Making Meaning Through Language**

**Moderator: Alice Weiland**

“20th Century Japanese Language Reform, Literacy, & Modern Media Impact” *Lily Kearney, Montclair State University*

“Signs of Belonging: Linguistic Journeys and Community Identities of Deaf Elders”  
*Neila Eaddy, Gallaudet University*

“Understanding Hinglish as Borderland: Hybrid Language and Identity Formation in the Indian-American Diaspora”  
*Jyotika Aggarwal, Mercer County Community College*

“Language and Leadership: Innovative Instruction Promoting Linguistic Inclusivity and Productivity”  
*Zoe Plauger, Loyola University Maryland*

## **Chapel C**

### **AI and Business 1**

**Moderator: Rivka Glaser**

“AI Crew Chief”  
*Stephen Rollins, Stevenson University*

“AI vs Employment: The Ultimate Face-Off”  
*Anastasia Ritter & Paige Fabian, Loyola University Maryland*

“AI, Automation, and Equity: Labor Market Transformation, and Algorithmic Bias in Hiring”  
*Cailleigh Grimberg & Cameron Grant, Loyola University Maryland*

“Artificial Intelligence is the Newest Industry Killing Our Planet”  
*Aslinn Tilley, Westfield State University*

## **Whitney**

### **Ecological Issues and Opportunities**

**Moderator: Sarah Roe**

“A Continued Biofilm Quest Investigating Interactions with Human Macrophages, Arthrobacter, and Biofilm”  
*Abigail Burgess, Westfield State University*

“Environmentally Sustainable Burial Methods and Practices”

*Nova Brown, University of Saint Joseph Connecticut*

“Mapping the Future of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat: How Fragmented Habitats Shape Their Survival”

*Grace Fontoura, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Ripple Effect: Assessing NGSS Integration in Maryland Water Science Education”

*Alyssa Geddie, Towson University*

### **Whalley**

#### **Designing for Sustainability, Health, and Innovation**

**Moderator: Andrew Martino**

“The Cost of a Lost Haven: When Policy Undermines Public Health Efforts and Its Implications on Black Maternal Health Outcomes in the United States”

*Leah Wynn, Salisbury University*

“Motivated About Motivation: The Science, Ethics, and Application of Intrinsic Motivation”

*Zoe Xanthopoulos, Quinnipiac University*

“Small Wings, Big Impact: Wildlife Rehabilitation as a Haven for Leadership” *Allison*

*Griswold, Westfield State University*

“Beyond Full Control: Towards a Sentient-Centric Approach in Superintelligence Alignment”

*Roman Segov, Atlantic Cape Community College*

### **George A**

#### **Responding to Psychological Crisis and Mental Health Needs**

**Moderator: Jessica McCort**

“A Crisis Car for a Crisis: Tri-Response Crisis Intervention”

*Daniel Doherty, Frederick Community College*

“Attitudes Surrounding Borderline Personality Disorder Among Psychology Students”

*Josey Sobeck, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania*

“Executive Functioning Facets as Predictors of Anxiety Profiles in Neurodiverse Youth”

*Natalia Cifuentes, Montclair State University; Co-Authors: Rachel McDonald, & Erin Kang, Montclair State University*

“Facing Our Finitude: The Lived Experience of the Anticipatory Passing of a Loved One”

*Ava Figueroa, Point Park University*

## **George B**

### **Ethics, Identity, and Responsibility in Digital Media**

**Moderator: Derek Faulkner**

“Beyond the Feed: TikTok’s Duty to Protect the Digital Playground”

*Michael Cieza, Loyola University Maryland*

“Creating a Digital Haven: An Ethical Digital Marketing Campaign for Streamich” *Michario Madden, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania*

“Curated Selves: Honoring Authentic Identity in the Age of Social Media”

*Laiba Viqar, Community College of Allegheny County*

“How Modern Media Influences Men”

*Raekwon Sok, Southern Connecticut State University*

## **York**

### **Building Communities: Housing, Infrastructure, and Urban Systems**

**Moderator: Elizabeth Kravanya**

“Architecture Will Save Lives: Evaluating the Intersection of Psychology, Sociology, and Architecture to Ensure Human Well-Being”

*Yoselynn Martinez, Thomas Jefferson University*

“Redefining the Redline: Exclusion, Crisis, and Hope”

*Carrie Ann Campbell, Cleveland State University*

“Source and Solution to Sub-urban Sprawl: Building Stronger Towns”

*Charlie Wurster, Frederick Community College*

“Rising Tides, Rising Costs: How Capital Shapes Climate Resilience in Miami”

*Ona R. Ugonna-Ufere, Montclair State University*

## **Church**

### **Economics of Inequality, Equity, and Sustainability**

**Moderator: Stephanie Schneider**

“Real Estate & Private Equity: Developing Communities, Depreciating Citizens”

*Rachael Hazlett, West Chester University*

“Enforcement and Inequality: The Labor-Market Consequences of Recent U.S. Immigration Policy Shifts”

*Katheryn Pelloquin, St. John's University*

“Examining Economic Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility in Developing Economies- A Great Gatsby Curve- Adjacent Analysis”

*Jack Ippolito, St. John's University*

“Prevention in Practice: Aligning Community Well-Being with Economic Sustainability”

*Lilly Parks and Chloe Einsig, Loyola University Maryland*

### **Roundtable Presentations**

#### **Temple**

#### **Conversations about Leadership in Healthcare**

**Moderator: Kenneth Nivison**

“Frontline Lifesavers: Innovation and Equity in Prehospital Emergency Care”

*Madison Conti, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“The Future of Nursing: The Importance of AI Literacy for Educators and Students”

*Shenijah Rodney, Monroe University*

“The Impact of Nursing Leadership on Serving Vulnerable Populations and Resolving Health Disparities”

*Kayla Shand, Monroe University*

#### **Temple**

#### **Conversations about Shaping the Future: Violence, Youth Crime, Democracy, and Immigration**

**Moderator: Kenneth Nivison**

“United States Gender Bias in Immigration Rights”

*Michelle Trieu, Westfield State University*

“The Future of Democracy in an Ever-Innovating World”

*Jalanii Newman, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Unintended Consequences: How 'Raise the Age' May Contribute to Increasing Youth Crime Rates”

*Deona Rosario, Monroe University*

“Raising Awareness of Intimate Partner Violence at Stevenson University”  
*Raven Molock, Stevenson University*

**Wooster**

**Conversations about Cultivating Tomorrow’s Leaders: Empowerment, Education,  
and Impact**

**Moderator: Sean Oros**

“From Self-Doubt to Self-Discovery: Cultivating Confident Student Leaders”  
*Olivia Rodriguez, Post University Honors Program*

‘From Student to Changemaker: Leadership Lessons Beyond the Classroom’  
*Justin Ethier, Post University Honors Program*

“Shaping Leaders Through Honors Education”  
*Veronica Rincon, New Jersey City University*

“Agents of Change: The Power of Student Involvement”  
*Jensi Javier Cabrera, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Empowering Young Voices: Leadership Begins in the Classroom”  
*Madison Rodgers, Thiel College*

**Session 2**  
**Saturday**  
**10:00 AM to 11:15 AM**  
**Breakout Rooms**

**Academic Panel Presentations**

**Chapel A**

**Exploring The Arts: Literature, Film, and Fashion**

**Moderator: Connie Kassor**

“A Poetic Exploration of Emotional Labor”

*Sarah Kowalczyk, Northampton Community College*

“Bollywood Bona Fides”

*Devshi Saxena, Orange County Community College*

“A Leader in Publishing: Harriet Monroe’s Founding of Poetry Magazine”

*Oliver Kirchner, University of New Haven*

**Whitney**

**The Power of Words**

**Moderator: Lindsey Scorey**

“When Silence Speaks Louder: The Paradox of Free Speech in Leadership”

*Anastasia Dedgjonaj, Post University*

“Anti-DEI Policy and the Effect on Workplace Motivation”

*Georgi Kirtley, Southern Connecticut University*

“Worth the Watch? Exploring Whether Watching the News Is Still Valuable”

*Azer Jalahej, William Paterson University*

**Whalley**

**Faith, Spirituality, and the Supernatural in Literature**

**Moderator: Rebecca Carte**

“Faith as a Haven: Spiritual Leadership and Moral Resilience”

*Miracle Stubbs, Monroe University*

“Haunted Havens: Grief, Trauma, and Transformation in Speculative Fiction”  
*Charlotte Hosek, Point Park University*

“Spiritualism, the Spectral, and Sherlock Holmes: How Shifting Religious Beliefs Impacted the Literature of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle”  
*Eleanor Curatolo, Monmouth University*

**George A**  
**Global/Domestic Economic Development and Social Welfare**  
**Moderator: Tracey Freiberg**

“Global Safety Nets: ECOSOC’s Imprint”  
*Mokshada Choudhary, St. John’s University*

“Navigating Economic Development Under Constraints: A Case Study in the Shinnecock Indian Nation.”  
*Michelle Oreva Esabunefe, St. John’s University*

“Public Opinion and Government Action on Social Welfare Policy: An Analysis”  
*Robert Senesi, Salisbury University*

“The CLARNOR Initiative: Framework for Fairness, Security, and Governance in Insurance AI Systems”  
*Samit Alam, St. John’s University*

**George B**  
**From Space Models to Social Signals: How We Perceive Complex Worlds**  
**Moderator: Zachary Aidala**

“The Universe At Your Fingertips: 3-D Printed Models for Accessible Space Science”  
*Kate Frederick, West Chester University of Pennsylvania;*  
*Co-Authors: Gelman, D., Zhang, P., Goodwin, L., Kuske, S., Mondal, S., Chen, B., Gary, D. E., & M, Gagne.*

“3D Printed Metamaterial Flat Lensing for Space Applications”  
*Andrew Rittenberg, University of Hartford*

“Effects of Manipulated Fundamental Frequency and Vocal Tract Length on Emotional Prosody”  
*Alexander Goodman, Towson University*

“Leading with the Eyes: The Importance of Sclera Color in Nonverbal Communication”  
*Grace Romanowski, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

## **York**

### **Human Development and Social Systems: Pathways Toward Ethical and Inclusive Leadership**

**Moderator: Srujana Kanjula**

“Disrupting Social Norms – The Decline of the Handshake”

*Sasha Petruccelli, Northampton Community College*

“Not Like in the Movies: A Content Analysis of Conflict Talk in Film”

*Olivia Fazio, Monmouth University*

“Inside the Mind: Psychological Development & Serial Homicide”

*Devin Lancheros, Northampton Community College*

“Divided Prosperity: Public vs. Private Wealth and Barriers to Economic Mobility in the U.S.”

*Shawna Simone & Isabella Duran, Loyola University Maryland*

## **Church**

### **Exploring Student Behaviors: Activists, Investors, and Identity Formation**

**Moderator: Patrick Fazioli**

“The City of Voices: Cultivating Youth Activism Leaders in NYC”

*Sydney Huskey, Monroe University*

“Education as a Tool of Political Influence in the PRI of Mexico, 1929–2000”

*Thomas Rusk, Westfield State University*

“Teen Investing Behavior: Exploring the Intersection of Risk Aversion, Education, and Gender”

*Arielle Tasto, Southern New Hampshire University*

“Self-Awareness and Self-Aware-ish: How Student Perceptions of Self-Awareness Affect Honors Culture”

*Layla King, West Chester University*

## **Roundtable Presentations**

## **Temple**

### **Honors Pedagogy, Best Practices, and Leadership - Part 1**

**Moderator: Matt Baran**

“Is Honors Ethical?”

*Aglaya Zinenko, SUNY Buffalo State University*

“The Game of School: The Role of the Honors College in Competitive Education”

*Sawyer Zimmer, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

“Honors Options Can Be More Than a Checked Box”

*Leah Zettlemoyer, Ryanne Ahmad, & Paria Khalili, Penn State Berks*

“How Peer Mentors Changed Our Honors Program”

*Jamie Ervolina, Cadence Aguilar, Brookelynn Bender, & Xinozea Ferguson-Giscombe, SUNY Buffalo State*

### **Temple**

#### **We Need to Talk About the Environment**

**Moderator: Matt Baran**

“Environmental Impact of Data Center in Ohio: Can Nature Keep Up With the Demand for Information?”

*Gabriele Borges de Oliveira, Cleveland State University*

“Leadership in the Land: Reimagining Systems Through National Parks”

*Brianna Hollandsworth, Thiel College*

“A discussion of Ethical Business Practices within HVAC Contractors”

*Owen Mathieu, Westfield State University*

### **Wooster**

#### **Talking about Education and Educating**

**Moderator: Emily Marshman**

“Teaching the Good Death”

*Kyra Staz, West Chester University*

“Innovative Teaching Strategies: How Coding Could Impact Reading”

*Stephanie Henry & Zaria Smith, Stevenson University*

### **Wooster**

#### **Dealing with Societal Standards: Conversations about Body Positivity & Beauty**

**Moderator: Emily Marshman**

“The Relationship between Social Media, Social Anxiety, and Body Positivity: Who Is In

Your Mirror?"

*Kayandra Scarlett, Monroe University*

"Reconstructing Identity: How Cosmetic Surgeries Influenced by Cultural and Beauty Standards Challenge Forensic Anthropologists"

*Shahira Khosla, University of New Haven*

**Presidential Luncheon**  
**Saturday**  
**11:30 PM to 12:45 PM**  
**Grand Ballroom ABC**

Please join us for a sit-down luncheon to celebrate this year's conference and the students, faculty, staff, and administrators who contributed to its success.

**Poster Session 1**  
**Saturday**  
**1:00 PM to 2:15 PM**  
**College**

**Listed Alphabetically**

(1) "From Reflection to Protection: Assessing the Impact of Window Modifications on Avian-Glass Collisions at Ramapo College of New Jersey"

*Abdulrazag Alhaddad, Ramapo College of New Jersey*

(2) "Latine Identity Threat: How U.S.-born Latines Self-group Distance from Undocumented Latines as Identity Management"

*Jackie Anderson, The College of New Jersey*

(3) "Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome: Paving the Way for Injury Research in Honors"

*Julia Arena, Fitchburg State University*

(4) "Redefining Hope: Breakthroughs Modernizing the Battle Against Cancer"

*Afnan Arif, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

(5) "It's a Bloody Mess! — The Gaps in Medical Care for Reproductive-Endocrine Disorders"

*Anastasia Awadalla, Monmouth University*

(6) "Art as Resistance: Cultural Identity, Sustainability, and Community Spaces in Little Havana"

*Katelyn Badke & Brittany Roman, Montclair State University*

(7) "Theories of Student Affairs: The Application and Impact on the Honors Program and Its Students"

*Jaden Barr, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania*

(8) "Scrubbing in for Success: Understanding the Impact of Interprofessional Healthcare Education on Student Outcomes"

*Eve Behrens, Quinnipiac University*

(9) "The Role of Art in Renaissance and Reformation Italy"

*Jenna Bevan, Commonwealth University Bloomsburg*

(10) "Perseverance Through Injuries and Athletes' Mental Health"

*Thomas Bova, Point Park University.*

(11) "Advocating for Better Policies to Protect Marine Species in the Maltese Islands"

*Julia Bronneberg, Gallaudet University*

(12) "Gender Discrimination by Age Cohort"  
*Taylor Brunelle, Southern Connecticut State University*

(13) "Negative and Positive Perceptions of GMOs"  
*Maya Burnside, Dominican University*

(14) "Crisis, Currency, and Change: Exploring Ecuador's Dollarization Story"  
*Christina Carvajal, New Jersey City University*

(15) "Effectively Leading: Where There is A Will, There is A Way: Improving Life for Disabled People Through Innovative Technology"  
*Justin Cedeno, Elizabethtown College*

(16) "Improved Confidence Intervals for Difference of Proportions with Mixed Paired and Unpaired Data"  
*Isabel Cole & Scott Richter, Towson University*

(17) "Gender and Age Disparities in Physical Therapy Access Among Parkinson's Patients"  
*Andrew Crawford, Gallaudet University*

(18) "Imposter Syndrome in First Generation Students"  
*Alexa Cruz-Barrera, Camden County College*

(19) "Philosophy as Therapy: Healing the Soul Through Thought"  
*Aarzo Brahmbhatt, Middlesex College*

(20) "Uncovering the Mysterious Origins of Chemotherapy: The Groundbreaking Discovery of Chemotherapy at Yale in World War II"  
*Matthew Dworkowitz, Sacred Heart University*

(21) "What is your doctor not telling you?: A Discussion on Patient Provider Transparency Centered Around Skin Cancer"  
*Lojine Elrais & John Hebron, Monmouth University*

(22) "Development of a Scale Measuring Trust Among Teammates in Competitive Situations"  
*Friedrich Feldrappe, University of Saint Joseph Connecticut*

(23) "Cultivating Community Scholars: Strengthening the Montclair State Honors Program Through Community Engagement"  
*Sara Flores, Montclair State University*

- (24) "Radioactive Artifacts: Material Culture, Scientific Authority, and Everyday Life in the Mid-Twentieth Century"  
*Lilianna Fujita, University at Albany SUNY*
- (25) "'I'm So OCD': Quantifying the Harms of a Cultural Catchphrase on Diagnosis and Self-Acceptance"  
*Megan Geiger, Cleveland State University*
- (27) "Building Financial Literacy on the College Campus"  
*Fallon Greenaway, Hudson Valley Community College Honors College*
- (28) "Modeling the Projected Cross-sectional Area of Low Earth Orbit Satellites Using High-Fidelity Orbital Decay Analysis"  
*Nathaniel Heaton, Frederick Community College*
- (29) "Effect of Antimicrobials on the Prevention of *Borrelia* Biofilm Formation"  
*Mohammad Sina Hesami, University of New Haven*
- (30) "Partners in Pediatrics: Increased Collaboration and Implementation of Child Life Interventions in Pediatric Nursing Practices"  
*Katelyn Houston, Towson University*
- (31) "The Future of Global Finance: How Technology, Digital Currencies, and AI Are Transforming the World's Economy"  
*Janesha Hyliger, Monroe University*
- (32) "A $\beta$  Modulation of VRAC-Driven Glutathione Release in Astrocytes"  
*Diya John, Mercy University*
- (33) "Cultivating Leadership through Neuroscience"  
*Jacob Kagan, Russell Sage College*
- (34) "Does Understanding Bipolar Disorder as a Physical Disease Reduce Stigma?"  
*Shannon Kelly, Dominican University*
- (35) "Our Obsession with True Crime Media and the Ethics Involved"  
*Ashleigh Kennedy, Monmouth University*
- (36) "Our View of 'Justice': Punishing Crime and Preventing Recidivism"  
*Ayla Koslen, Cleveland State University*
- (37) "Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Edema in Wood Frogs"  
*Matilda Kutschinski, Southern Connecticut State University*
- (38) "Trends of PA Migratory Bird Counts and Their Relationship to PA Temperature"  
*Sadie Levi-Price, West Chester University*

(39) "A Story of Division: Family Dynamics and Immigrant Identity in Ocean Vuong's On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous"

*Isabel Lindsay, The College of New Jersey*

(40) "Romanticizing Violence: The Cultural Normalization of Serial Killers in Modern Media"

*Samantha Lolacono, Mercy University*

(41) "Cracking the Glass Ceiling: Structural and Cultural Barriers Preventing Women's Advancement in Nursing Leadership"

*Hauwa Mahe, Southern Connecticut State University*

(42) "Seeing the Unseen: The Role of Invisible Disabilities in Shaping Leaders"

*Julianna Martinez, Monroe University*

(43) "Comparative Analysis of Historical and Contemporary Immigrant Discrimination in the U.S."

*Elon McCain, The College of New Jersey*

(44) "Using Positive Psychology to Improve Environment and Mold Thriving Culture and Community"

*Cordelia McCoy, Point Park University*

(45) "Accelerated Development of Next-Generation Metal-Supported Carbon Catalysts through Combinatorial Synthesis"

*Juliana Nanni, Rowan University*

(46) "Role of domains in Muscleblind-like 1 RNA-Binding Protein in Alternative Splicing Regulation"

*Sai Sravani Nimishakavi & J. Andrew Berglund, University at Albany SUNY*

(47) "Comparative Analysis of Pediatric Feeding Recommendations Across Countries"

*Thays Paiva de Almeida, Williams Paterson University*

(48) "The Future of the Data Scientist: Human Expertise in the Age of AI"

*Sophia Paulino, William Patterson University of New Jersey*

(49) "Quantifying the Climate Penalty: A Machine Learning Study of Ozone Concentration Trends and Weather Patterns in New Jersey, 2017 to 2024"

*Paula Perez Portero, Bloomfield College of Montclair State University*

(50) "Hunger Has No Place in a World of Plenty: Empowering Communities to End Hunger"

*Lillian Piper, Georgian Court University*

- (51) "From Inspiration to Action: Service Learning through the Lens of Nobel Peace Laureates in India and the United States"  
*Jaden Razum, Community College of Allegheny County*
- (52) "Understanding Type 1 Diabetes: Innovations in Technology, Prevention of Mismanagement, and Impact on Young Adults"  
*Noah Renzi, Hudson Valley Community College Honors College*
- (53) "Building a Haven for Wildlife: Lessons from the 2025 Piping Plover Season at Sleeping Bear Dunes"  
*Alana Rudolf, Thiel College*
- (54) "Effects of Tir-C in Dictyostelium edited by CRISPR-Cas9: Insights into Innate Immunity"  
*Daniel Sackey, Towson University*
- (55) "Love Me, But Not The Lasagna"  
*Gurleen Saran, Middlesex College*
- (56) "Should You Go to Disney World? The Hidden Dangers of Climate Change"  
*Leah Schwing-Krompholz & Carl Bosa, Montclair State University*
- (57) "Negative Latin Square Type Partial Difference Sets from Non-Abelian Groups and their Product Constructions"  
*John Seibert, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania*
- (58) "Cultivating Female Leaders: The Regression of Women's Civil Rights in Modern America"  
*Deveena Shaw, Monroe University*
- (59) "Food Pantries as a Crucial City Tool to Aid in Community Well-being"  
*Jocelyn Silverberg, Albertus Magnus College*
- (60) "Synthesis and Analysis of Tacrine and Acetylated-Tacrine using <sup>1</sup>H NMR and IR Spectroscopy"  
*Riley Smith, Thiel College*
- (61) "Canadohta, PA: Broadside"  
*Vincent Smykal, Point Park University*
- (62) "Informing Impactful Leadership for Ecological Stewardship: A Comparative Analysis of Floral Stalk Length in Reynoutria Japonica Across Native and Non-Native Environments"  
*Cady Spelman, Westfield State University*

(63) “The Association Between Citizenship Status And Way of Life In Adults In the United States”

*Martiale Tete, Thiel College*

(64) “Go Through, Grow Through: How Development Shapes Strong and Caring Leaders”

*Samayah Urena, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

(65) “American Society and The Rejection of Natural: How Destructive Narratives Have Poisoned Black Women and Their View of Hair”

*Florisel Velez, Ramapo College of New Jersey*

(66) “The Innovation of Utilizing Phytochemistry to Modulate Immune Responses”

*Erica Vogel, Fitchburg State University*

(67) “Effects of Listener Position on Auditory Masking Effects in Normal and Hearing-Impaired Adults in a Noisy Environment”

*Kay Walter, Towson University*

(68) “The Art of Tattoos: From Ancient History to AI Impact”

*Daria Wiatrowska, Monroe University*

(69) “The History and Rise of mRNA Vaccines and the Future of Accessible Medicine”

*Princess Michaela Wilkerson, Camden County College*

**Faculty Development Hour**  
**Saturday**  
**1:30 PM to 2:30 PM**  
**Wooster**

**The Following Presentations are in the Idea Exchange Format**

“The Great Dane Way to Success, Innovation, and Inspiring Leaders”  
*Lorraine Affigne & Sean Metcalf, University at Albany SUNY*

“Cultivating Leadership and Community Through Nationally Competitive Scholarships”  
*Nicole Anandan, West Chester University*

“Honors News Letter: The Squirrel Squire”  
*Sicilia Campbell, Westfield State University*  
“Buley Plant Lending Program”  
*Derek Faulkner, Southern Connecticut State University*

“Cultivating Ethical Leaders Through the Post University Honors Program Student Advisory Group”  
*Caitlin Grant & Lindsey Scorey, Post University*

“Be the Reason Someone Survives”  
*Olivia Harkins, Westfield State University*

“Gender Stereotypes Affecting Patients’ Outcome with Doctors”  
*Johannah Reid, Southern Connecticut State University*

“Proposing the Creation of an Honors Student Success Coordinator”  
*Madison Zimmerman, Hartwick College*

**The Following Presentations are in the Roundtable Format**

“48 hours Off the Grid: The Risks, Rewards, and Reflections of a Student Leadership Retreat”  
*Matt Baran, SUNY Buffalo State University*

“The Heart of Honors: Building Belonging Through Intentional Programming”  
*Delanie Clay & Allison Smagin, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“The 3 ‘R’s’: Recruitment, Retention, and Richness within the Haven of Honors Community College Programs”  
*Ashleigh Fox & Emily Marshman, Community College of Allegheny County*

“Leading with Curiosity: A Conversation-Centered Model for First-Year Honors Learning”

*Tim Jussaume, West Chester University*

**Session 3**  
**Saturday**  
**2:45 PM to 4:00 PM**  
**Breakout Rooms**

**Academic Panel Presentations**

**Chapel A**

**Modern Health Challenges**

**Moderator: Caitlin Grant**

“From Habit to Health Risk: An Investigation on Caffeine and Bone Health”  
*Grace Mohr, University of Hartford*

“Research as a Haven: Understanding How High Glucose Rewires the Immune Response”  
*Autumn Jones, Westfield State University*

“Nutrition Misinformation: How Social Media Shapes America’s Health Crisis”  
*Claudia Chelchowski, Marissa Lopez, & Christina Mari, Molloy University*

“Strengthening Future Healthcare Leaders: Understanding Graduate Student Burnout and Improving Support during the Transition from Classroom Learning to Clinical Practice”  
*Lily Dufresne, Westfield State University*

**Chapel B**

**Individuals, Society, and the Stories They Shape**

**Moderator: Sheila Gross**

“Beyond the Page: Dystopian Fiction and the Fight for Freedom”  
*Alexis Brown, Thiel College*

“How Do Youth Interpret Fiction? An Analysis of the Factors Shaping Their Interpretation and Where We Might Be Losing Them”  
*Sequoia Hornsby, University of Hartford*

“The Quirky Girl, the Lonely Girl: An Exploration of Media for the ‘Weird Girl’ and Messages of Isolation”  
*Jamie Nese, Point Park University*

“Nihilism, Egoism, and Active Love in The Brothers Karamazov”  
*Daniel Lamoureux, University of Hartford*

### **Chapel C**

#### **Expanding Opportunity and Addressing Educational Challenges In and Out of Honors**

**Moderator: AnnMarie DelliPizzi**

“From Classroom to Community: Honors as a Haven for Connection and Change”  
*Skye Dreher, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

“Expanding Access to Higher Education: An Evaluation of Free College Application Policies”  
*Natalie Specht, University at Albany SUNY*

“Charter Schools: A Way to Find Voices and Claim Communities”  
*Jessica Cavalier, Cleveland State University*

“Why the United States Should Adopt a More Global Approach to Special Education”  
*Kayla S. Bonilla & Joseph Stallone, Molloy University*

### **George A**

#### **The Housing Market, Higher Education, Environmental Inequality, and Taxes**

**Moderator: Jessica McCort**

“The Hopeless American Dream: Fixing a Broken System for Future Generations”  
*Chase Ridley, Loyola University Maryland*

“The Influence of Air Pollution on Gender and Structural Barriers: A Case Study of Climate Adaptation and Empowerment in Queens, NY”  
*Alina Malakhova, St. John’s University*

“U.S. Tax Policies Post-COVID: The Gap Between Intent and Reality”  
*Damini Ramanujam Kumar, Kutztown University*

“Marketing and the Modern University: Exploring How Branding Influences the Perception and Value of Higher Education”  
*Stephanie Wu, St. John’s University*

### **George B**

#### **Media, Culture, and Meaning Making**

**Moderator: Chris Brittain**

“Distorted Vision: How Misrepresentation and Accurate Portrayals in Art Drive Social Change”

*Taylor Chapotelle, Cuyahoga Community College*

“Understanding Modern American Politics through Identity and Pop Music between 2018 and 2025: A Musicological Analysis”

*Emilyn Bedell, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

“Ancient Aryans to Ancient Aliens: Racism in Pseudohistorical Works”

*Andrew Binks, SUNY Buffalo State University*

“Male Loneliness Epidemic: A Look into How the Patriarchy Affects Us All”

*Gabrielle Bernabe, University of Saint Joseph Connecticut*

### **York**

**Financial Literacy and AI Literacy in Business/Underrepresented Groups**

**Moderator: Jenny Henriquez**

“The Case for Common Cents”

*Alexandra Cicala, St. John’s University*

“Microfinance Driving Green Entrepreneurship: A Path to Sustainable Livelihoods, Climate Resilience, and Environmental Innovation”

*August Domingo, St. John’s University*

“Careers in Aviation: Access Restricted!”

*Samreen Saleel, Orange County Community College*

### **Church**

**Gender, Identity, and Pathways to Leadership**

**Moderator: Suzie Huminski**

“Creating Equitable Leadership Positions for Women Immigrants”

*Brianna Brito, Southern Connecticut State University*

“Haven for Her: How Biomedical Innovation Redefines Women’s Health”

*Drishti Dudani, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Women in Leadership: The Role of Mentorship and Background on Self-Efficacy”

*Heather Rae Gaydownen, Southern Connecticut State University*

“Self Diagnosis in Neurodivergence: An Ethnographic Study of Lived Experiences”

*Rhheaa Mehta, University of Pittsburgh*

### **Roundtable Presentations**

## **Temple**

### **Developing Leaders Across Disciplines and Fields**

**Moderator: Ashleigh Fox**

“Servant Leadership: Cultivating Compassionate and Effective Leaders”

*Mei-Li Phung, Post University Honors Program*

“Breaking Taboos: Disability, Sexuality, and the Future of Leadership”

*Shayla Samuel, Post University Honors Program*

“Crossing Borders, Building Leaders: The Journey of International Student-Athletes in the U.S.”

*Leopold Dufaut, Post University Honors Program*

## **Temple**

### **Ethical Discussions on Human Development and Connection**

**Moderator: Ashleigh Fox**

“You Should Be Nice to Gay People: Community as a Haven; An In-Depth Look into the Self-Preservation of LGBT Individuals in Academia”

*Ari Kelly, Community College of Allegheny County*

“Talking Back to the Patriarchy: Female Rage and Education as Havens of Identity and Empowerment”

*Emma Keenan, Community College of Allegheny County*

“Toxic Masculinity and Its Rise Due to Social Media”

*Jameelah Irshad, Southern Connecticut State University*

“Reversing Roles: The Psychological Effects of Adultification”

*Karen Rodriguez, Monroe University*

## **Wooster**

### **Conversations about Cultivating Leadership Through Knowledge**

**Moderator: Zachary Aidala**

“Ethnography: The Intersection of the Humanities and Scientific Research”

*Harry Anderson, Cuyahoga Community College*

“Mentorship as a Haven for Building Leadership and Confidence in Undergraduate Research”

*Dorothy Alcivar, New Jersey City University*

“Extending the Haven: Honors Outreach and the Search for Academic Purpose”  
*Miriam Awwad, Montclair State University*

“Creating Leaders in Business: The Role of Professional Programs in Reducing Recent Graduates’ Unemployment”  
*Karla Castillo, Monroe University*

**Session 4  
Saturday  
4:15 PM to 5:30 PM  
Breakout Rooms**

**Academic Panel Presentations**

**Chapel A**

**Challenges and Innovations in Political Governance**

**Moderator: Jessica L. Kenty-Drane**

“Democratic Renewal: Electoral Innovation In The U.S.”

*Stephen D’Ambrosio, SUNY Orange*

“The Effects of State Development on Rates of Radicalism”

*Leah Collidge, Towson University*

“Beyond Retaliation: The Moral Architecture for Counterterrorism”

*Lindsey Chambers, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“The Criminalization of Immigration: Analyzing Undocumented Status, Statistical Trends & Stigmatization”

*Vladimir Trochez, The College of New Jersey*

**Chapel B**

**Communicating Science: Creative, Computational, and Pedagogical Perspectives**

**Moderator: Diana Polley**

“Seeing the Unseen: A Microscopic Exploration of Life Through Watercolors”

*Hayden Johnston, Salisbury University*

“Printing Life: Bioprinting and the Remastering of Personal Healthcare”

*Matthew Palma, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Modeling Virality with Partial Differential Equations: How Do Networks Diffuse Ideas?”

*Maxyn Hallare, United States Air Force Academy*

“Effective Teaching Approaches for Climate Change Education”

*Grace Cullari, Salisbury University*

## **Chapel C**

### **Managing Business, Business Cycles, and Security**

**Moderator: Niall Hegarty**

“Caring for the Survivors: Managerial Burnout and Employee Impact After Mass Layoffs”  
*Campbell Diffendall, James Fried, & Nora Mitchell, Loyola University Maryland*

“The Cost of Law School: Do Business Cycles Matter?”  
*Abigail Bautista, St. John’s University*

“Micro-Leadership: Small Actions, Big Change”  
*Ella Doud, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“How You’ve Been Hacked (And Helped Them Do It)”  
*Josiah Silverberg, Mercy University*

## **Whitney**

### **How Leaders Think, Decide, and Act**

**Moderator: Anuli Njoku**

“Adaptive Perfectionism: A Path into Growth and Leadership”  
*Alice Saadalla, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“The Power of Character: Building Future Leaders Who Inspire Change Beyond Title & Authority”  
*Rayshorn Dickson, Monroe University*

“Why Good Leaders Make Bad Decisions”  
*Carina LaRocca, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“To What Extent are Individuals Responsible for Sustaining Inclusivity & Belonging in their Community?”  
*Addison Havens, Hartwick College*

## **Whalley**

### **Rethinking Crime, Justice, and Public Response**

**Moderator: Sarah Roe**

“Leading Beyond Labels: Cross-Comparing Rehabilitation Methods in the United States Juvenile Justice System”  
*Marissa Almonte, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Hidden in Plain Sight: Uncovering Human Trafficking on Long Island and Inspiring Action Through Awareness”

*Daniela Acteopan, Alba Aimee, Andrea Cardenas, Sasha Dornevil, Rachel Sirico, Gianna Tallini, Molloy University; Co-Author: Breanna Wilson, Molloy University*

“Gendered Patterns of Serial Killing: Confronting Bias and Reimagining Ethical Justice”  
*Sherlynn Avila Amaro, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

### **George B**

#### **Microbes, Molecules, and Medicine: Frontiers in Biological and Chemical Research**

**Moderator: George Branch-Trevath**

“Microbes in Space: Outer Space and Killer Bacteria”  
*Ellie Wachter, Frederick Community College*

“Preparing <sup>15</sup>N-Labeled LptH for Fragment-Based Drug Discovery (FBDD)”  
*Hayden Tucker, Thiel College*

“Prevalence and Antibiotic Resistance of Staphylococcus aureus in Musical Instruments and Musicians”  
*Rhiannon Lara, University of Hartford*

“Bioisosteres: Better Building Blocks in Chemistry”  
*Dylan Bariexca, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

### **York**

#### **Health, Identity, and the Politics of the Body**

**Moderator: Andrew Martino**

“Weather or Not It Hurts: Student Perception of Weather and Pain”  
*Samantha Somers, Salisbury University*

“The Global Burden of Infertility on Women’s Mental Health Under Cultural Contexts and Intervention”  
*Subika Rajendiran, Thomas Jefferson University*

“Dismantling Patriarchal Standards of Body Image as a Tool of Resistance for Female Leaders”  
*Tracy Gladding, Gallaudet University*

“Beyond The Operating Room: Institutional Responsibility For AI in Medicine”  
*Simone Abbasi & Emily Bussanich, Loyola University Maryland*

### **Roundtable Presentations**

## **Temple**

### **Discussions about Art, Agency, and Innovation**

**Moderator: Scott Mayberry**

“Empathy through the Painterly: To be Seen is to be Felt”

*Stella Newmoyer, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania*

“Layered: an Exploration in the Medium of Collage”

*Amber Lyons, Westfield State University*

“Creative Confinement: How Women’s Stories Transformed Madness into Leadership”

*Julianna Vockroth, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

"Steel City Setlist: Navigating the Pittsburgh Music Scene: How the Pittsburgh Music Scene is a Cultural Haven"

*Maleena Dominick, Community College of Allegheny County*

“Why Do We Enjoy Others' Suffering? - An Analysis and Exploration of the Role of Schadenfreude in Entertainment”

*Chidinma Echezona, Mercy University*

“Upstanding and Impactful Use of AI? Examining AI in the Gaming and Entertainment Industry”

*Justin Stewart, Monroe University*

## **Wooster**

### **Honors Pedagogy, Best Practices, and Leadership - Part 2**

**Moderator: AnnMarie DelliPizzi**

“More than Merit: Creating a Space in Honors to Support High-Achieving Student Mental Health”

*Delaney Nadeau, Monmouth University*

“Honors As a Haven: But Not For All: Understanding Neurodivergence”

*Kata Walton, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Honors as a Haven for Preventive Health: Reducing Sugary Beverage Consumption Among Young Adults”

*Joseph Vitagliano, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

“Honors as a Haven: Fostering Leadership, Innovation, and Community within the NJCU Honors”

*Ryan Caley & Jennifer Quizhpi, New Jersey City University*

“Havens for Whom? Understanding belonging and absence in Honors Programming”  
*Nikkel Pryce & Maggie Herb, SUNY Buffalo State*

**Student Gala: Secret Society**  
**Saturday**  
**8:30 PM to 11:59 PM**  
**Grand Ballroom ABC**

Shh, don't let anyone know that Saturday Night is our Secret Society Gala!

Bring the tickets you got at registration as your way in the door, and join us for a night of fun dancing, beautiful outfits, and celebrating our hard work for the NRHC Conference.

Dress Code is as formal as you want it to be (so full ballgowns are encouraged, but so are slacks and a button-up. But we encourage you to be fun and festive!).

Enjoy the decorations, the photobooth, and the DJ; have fun and know you're truly celebrating your own hard work. Snacks will be provided.

Keep updated on our social media (@nrhchonors on Instagram) for further details about the dress code, theme, and vibes!

# **SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

**NRHC Business Meeting  
Sunday  
7:30 AM to 8:30 AM  
Temple**

Join us as we discuss the business of our region and learn how you can become more involved with NRHC!



**Breakfast  
Sunday  
8:30 AM to 10:00 AM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

Breakfast will be available for more of a "grab and go," so participants can go enjoy Poster Session 2!

**Poster Session 2  
Sunday  
8:30 AM to 9:45 AM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

**Listed Alphabetically**

(70) "Homes Become Battlegrounds"

*Lennon Anderson, Southern Connecticut State University*

(71) "Bang for the Buck: Evaluating Ways to Prepare Black Business Students for Corporate Careers"

*Matilda Appiah, Southern Connecticut State University*

(72) "What's on the Menu? How Diamondback Terrapin Diet Impacts Macroinvertebrates in Sawmill Creek, NJ"

*Talayeh Aviles, New Jersey City University*

(73) "How Could M.sexta Help Solve the Armyworm Crisis?"

*Oluwaseye Ayoade, Howard Community College; Co-Authors: Gary Burke, Katherine Mena, Ugonna Onukaogu & Dr. William Gretes*

(74) "Promoting the Latino Community in the Capital Region Through Dance"

*Fatjon Banushllari, Hudson Valley Community College Honors College*

(75) "MataVision: Predicting and Preventing Traffic Accidents in Salem, Massachusetts Using Machine Learning"

*Fatoumata Barrow, Salem State University*

(76) "Rehab Reimagined: The Role of Predictive Analytics in Personalized Physical Therapy"

*Ashley Beltran Vega, Mercy University*

(77) "The Synthesis and Characterization of Pyridine Alkoxide Ligands"

*Christopher Besnilian, Sacred Heart University*

(78) "Acute effects of acute water consumption on body composition and hydration status: Recommendations for Testing Athletic Populations"

*Sara Bojorque, Sacred Heart University*

(79) "Roots of Origin: Geographic Imprints on Poplar Tree Microbiomes in the Popup Poplar Gardens"

*Jasmine Bowie & Katherine Hendricks, Salisbury University*

- (80) "Arts and the Honors College: Investigating Perceptions and Realities"  
*London Brooks, Towson University*
- (81) "Innovation with Integrity: Responsible Artificial Intelligence Leadership in Medicine"  
*Alana Cambridge, Farmingdale State College (SUNY)*
- (82) "Artificial Intelligence in Immunology and Healthcare: Driving Innovation and Reducing Costs"  
*Dalia Cancel Batista, Mercer County Community College*
- (83) "Increasing American Voting Turnout"  
*Peyton Caster, United States Air Force Academy*
- (84) "From Rosie to Rehabilitation: Representations of Women and Individuals with Disabilities in Wartime and Postwar Media"  
*Sierra Cheesman, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania*
- (85) "From First to Finish: Student Involvement and the Retention of First-Generation Students at Shippensburg University"  
*Kayce Cook, Shippensburg University*
- (86) "Another File in the Cabinet: The Ethical Challenges of Child Protective Services"  
*Bianca De La Cruz, Mercy University*
- (87) "We've Got Issues: Hope's Role in the Relationship Between Political Media, Political Action, and Mental Health"  
*Dylan Dwyer, Hartwick College*
- (88) "Is There an Association between Religion and Political Partisanship?"  
*Danica Escalante, Thiel College*
- (89) "Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and Its Impact on Child Development"  
*Larissa Fernandez Estevez, Northampton Community College*
- (90) "The Epicurean Surgery: Fostering Well-Being Within the Campus Community"  
*Mariela Flores, Middlesex College*
- (91) "The AI Therapist: Attitudes Toward Artificial Intelligence-Based Therapy"  
*Rebecca Franklin, Kutztown University*
- (92) "Opportunity in Identifying Disconnect: A Comparison of Patient and Provider Perspectives within Indigenous American Health"  
*Bethany Fuss, Towson University*
- (93) "Helping Hands Hinder Hunger: The Adopt A Shelf Program"

*Molly Graiff, Hudson Valley Community College Honors College*

(94) "Is it Beautiful?- A Look at How the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' Will Affect Current and Prospective College Students"

*Keira Gramlich, Ramapo College Of New Jersey*

(95) "A Comparison of Biodiversity Within in Oyster Shell Bags"

*Aracelis Hannah, New Jersey City University*

(96) "Sugars and Other Polyols Can Enhance Chlorination Rates of Phenolic Compounds in Chlorinated Waters"

*Lucas Hoffman & Ryan Kearney, Towson University*

(97) "Examining the Cellular Response when Adaptation to ER Stress Fails"

*Klemans Husary, Cleveland State University*

(98) "Undergraduate Students in Social Science Majors' Perceptions, Knowledge, and Attitudes Toward Family Reunification"

*Rose Jeffes, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Lock Haven*

(99) "The Conjunctive Therapies and Methods of Adjustment that are used with Chiropractic Treatment"

*Bryanna Johnson, Commonwealth University - Lock Haven*

(100) "Honors as a Haven for Ethical Leadership: How Top-Down Approaches Build Stronger Social Justice Outcomes"

*Samuella Kamara, Thomas Jefferson University*

(101) "When Leaders Dance: Moving Together, Leading Together"

*Joyce Manuella Kenmegne Tagne, Cuyahoga Community College*

(102) "Sleep Vs. Concentration"

*Shreya Karmokar, Middlesex College*

(103) "A Haven of Care: Hijab-Wearing Patients and Providers Navigating Cultural Sensitivity in U.S. Healthcare"

*Chashman Khan, Mercy College*

(104) "Technology + Mathematics = Success: Visualizing Geometry for a Deeper Understanding"

*Kaitlyn King, Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania*

(105) "Effects of Spectral Resolution on Spatial Release from Masking and Listening Effort in Simulated Cochlear Implant Listening"

*Julianna Krefski, Towson University*

- (106) “Historiography of Quarantine During the Bubonic Plague in Early Modern Europe”  
*Jez Lambert, Cleveland State University*
- (107) “Bridging from Java to C++: Developing Study Tools for Student Learning”  
*Michael Lott, Community College of Allegheny County*
- (108) “Improving Mechanical Integrity in Wearable Solid-Carbon Microneedle Sensors”  
*Nicolas Manning, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania - Lock Haven Campus*
- (109) “Microplastics: A Growing Threat to Human Health”  
*Rimo Mathew, Middlesex County College*
- (110) “Age of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Diagnosis and Perceived Support: Social and Behavioral Interventions”  
*Sarah McCartney, Cleveland State University*
- (111) “Breaking the Mirror: Reclaiming Leadership and Empathy After Narcissistic Family Dynamics”  
*Cheryl Morrison, Northampton Community College*
- (112) “Words as Weapons: A Critical Feminist Examination of Online Gendered Harassment, Violent Language, and Alt-Right Rhetoric”  
*Kayleigh Naprawa, Rowan University*
- (113) “RTA-induced ubiquitination of helicase subunit MCM7 may play a role in lytic reactivation in rKSHV.219”  
*Abby Norr, Towson University; Co-Authors: Cameron Bates, Dr. Joseph Hoffmann, & Dr. Elana Ehrlich, Towson University*
- (114) “AI-Enhanced Creative Problem-Solving Tools for Education and the Future Workforce”  
*Gracy Patel & Yash Patel, SUNY Buffalo State University*
- (115) “Effect of Caffeine on Crayfish Neural Activity: Superficial Nerve 3 Firing Rate Across Varied Concentrations”  
*Alondra Perez, Mercer County Community College*
- (116) “AI and Civil Liberties: Constitutional Analysis in the Age of Surveillance”  
*Mark-Handy Phanor, Kutztown University*
- (117) “Applied Knowledge: A Multi-Learning Framework”  
*Mitzy Pinot, Mercer County Community College*
- (118) “Empowering Voices: The Impact of Teacher Training on Augmentative and

Alternative Communication Device Use in Inclusive Classrooms”  
*Janaia Rohrbaugh, Shippensburg University*

(119) “Minimum Time Effect of Fish Oil on Arterial Stiffness”  
*Campbell Ruffhead & Timothy Werner, Salisbury University*

(120) “Exploring the Variation in tsiv2 Gene Copy and Sequence in *Vibrio fischeri*:  
Implications for Self vs. Non-Self Recognition”  
*Alyson Schulze, Salisbury University*

(121) “Writers of Tomorrow's Deaf Narratives”  
*Frederick Scott, Gallaudet University*

(122) “From Homelessness to Housing: An Analysis of Flexible Cash Assistance”  
*Amanda Shaffer, Cleveland State University*

(123) “A Haven for Students: Scholars Expect to be Challenged”  
*Sharlyn Barrett, Community College of Allegheny County*

(124) “Investigation of the Role of AP-1 Transcription Factors in T1 Antigen  
Transformed Human Dermal Fibroblast Cells”  
*Kellie Simon, Elizabethtown College; Co-Author: Dr. Amy Defnet, Elizabethtown College*

(125) “The Fading Stroke of Art”  
*Nicholas Smith, Fairleigh Dickinson University*

(126) “How Does Disrupting Sleep-Wake Cycles Affect Insulin Sensitivity and Increase  
the Risk of Type-2 Diabetes?”  
*Pyone Soe Naing, SUNY ERIE Community College; Co-Author: Dr. Patricia Bernard,  
SUNY ERIE Community College*

(127) “Athletic Performance and Mental Health: Day-by-Day Associations”  
*Shelby Swartz, Hartwick College; Co-Author: William Kowalczyk, Hartwick College*

(128) “Albania's Dynamic History: Its Movement Towards Democracy”  
*Viola Troqe, Quinnipiac University*

(129) “Exploring Metabolic Differences of *E. coli* in Various D2O Concentrations: An  
Experimental and Computational Approach”  
*Isabella Villatora, Ramapo College of New Jersey; Co-Author: Art Edison, University of  
Georgia*

(130) “Documenting a Regional Legacy: Tracing the Collaboration of Hank Marr and  
Rusty Bryant, 1954–1968”  
*Owen Walter, William Paterson University*

(131) "MacKenzie Wellington- How are Students the Leaders of Our Future?"  
*MacKenzie Wellington, Hartwick College*

(132) "Emotions in the Eye of the Machine: Accuracy, Bias, and Ethical Implications of AI-Based Facial Analysis"  
*Jaward Zaman & Gauri Shrestha, St. Joseph's University New York*

**Awards Ceremony  
Sunday  
10:00 AM to 10:45 AM  
Grand Ballroom ABC**

Join us as we wrap up the conference with this awards celebration in the following categories:

- SEA Award Winners & Nominees
- Paper of the Year Awardees & Nominees
- Student of the Year Awardees & Nominees
- Outstanding Poster Awardees
- Honors Professional of the Year Awardees & Nominees
- Publications Contest Awardees & Nominees