Mercer University’s
Fifth Annual BEAR DAY
Breakthroughs in Engagement, Arts and Research
April 9-10, 2015

The Engaged Learning Committee Members:
Chair: Bob Allen
Kevin Bucholtz
Craig Coleman
Jarred Jenkins
Gordon Johnston
Jennifer Royal
Tom Scott
Rosalind Simson

http://www.facebook.com/mercerBEARday
Welcome to BEAR Day 2015 at Mercer University!

Breakthroughs in Engagement, the Arts and Research (BEAR) Day and Engineering Expo Day showcase outstanding undergraduate student research and special projects. BEAR Day includes oral presentations, poster sessions, musical presentations and art show exhibits. The program this year has over 100 presentations with contributions from over 150 students. At the same time, Engineering Expo Day events feature oral and poster presentations on research and design projects and the annual Freshman Design Competition in the University Center arena, with over 300 students participating and presenting in the Engineering Expo program events.

The keynote speaker for BEAR Day 2015 is John Rhett Thomas, CLA ’94. Rhett is a Mercer alumnus graduating in 1994 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Communications and Theater. He will speak about his journey from Mercer to Marvel Comics, where he serves as a writer and editor. John launched a popular comic-book themed website in 2000 and in 2005 he joined Marvel as a writer and editor in the special projects office. We look forward to hearing about his career journey and how his experiences at Mercer have shaped this path.

BEAR Day demonstrates and honors the achievements of students and highlights the depth and breadth of the academic experiences at Mercer. I know you will enjoy the presentations and trust that BEAR Day will spark your own intellectual curiosity and inspire further scholarly pursuits.

Sincerely,

Wayne C. Glasgow, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Provost for Research
Dean of Graduate Studies
## Schedule at a Glance

### Thursday April 9, 2015

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Willingham</th>
<th>McCorkle Music</th>
<th>Hardman Art</th>
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### Color Codes

- **Poster Presentations**
- **Paper Presentations**
- **Creative Expression**
- **Competitions**
- **Awards**
- **Keynote Address**
- **Meals**
# Bear Day Schedule

**Thursday, April 9th, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>General Poster Session I</td>
<td>Heritage Hall, University Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td>General Poster Session II</td>
<td>Heritage Hall, University Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm - 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td>On your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>President’s Dining Room (UC)</td>
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<td>John Rhett Thomas</td>
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**Friday, April 10th, 2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>General Posters available for review</td>
<td>Heritage Hall, University Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Art Exhibition</td>
<td>Plunkett Gallery, Hardman Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 9:50 am</td>
<td>General Paper Session I</td>
<td>Knight Hall and Stetson 251</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Engineering Expo’s Freshmen Design Competition</td>
<td>Lobbies of Engineering Buildings (EGC and SEB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 10:50 am</td>
<td>General Paper Session II</td>
<td>Knight Hall and Stetson 251</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>University Brass Choir</td>
<td>Patio, McCorkle Music Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Engineering Expo’s Poster Presentations of Senior Design, Honors, and Research</td>
<td>SEB Poster Galleries</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 11:50 am</td>
<td>General Paper Session III</td>
<td>Knight Hall and Stetson 251</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Engineering Expo’s Freshmen Design Competition</td>
<td>Lobbies of Engineering Buildings (EGC and SEB)</td>
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<td>1:00 pm - 1:50 pm</td>
<td>General Paper Session IV</td>
<td>Knight Hall and Stetson 251</td>
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<td>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Townsend School of Music Poster Session</td>
<td>Corridor, McCorkle Music Building</td>
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<td>1:30 pm - 2:50 pm</td>
<td>Engineering Expo’s Concurrent Sessions for Presenting Selected Senior Design, Honors, and Research Projects</td>
<td>Classrooms, Engineering Buildings (EGC and SEB)</td>
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<td>2:00 pm - 2:50 pm</td>
<td>Art Student Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>Plunkett Gallery, Hardman Hall</td>
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<td>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</td>
<td>General Paper Session V</td>
<td>Knight Hall and Stetson 251</td>
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<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Engineering Expo’s Wrap-up and Awards Presentation</td>
<td>SEB Auditorium</td>
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<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Honors Convocation</td>
<td>Willingham</td>
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<td>6:00 pm - 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Senior Art Show Reception</td>
<td>567 Center for Urban Renewal</td>
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<td>6:00 pm - 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Dulcimer Release Party</td>
<td>Religious Life Center</td>
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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

“A View From The Tower: The Secret Origins Of Liberal Arts”

John Rhett Thomas

Born and raised in Indian River County, Florida, Rhett Thomas graduated from Mercer University in 1994 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Communications & Theater. In 2000, he launched a popular comic book-related website, and in 2005 furthered his career in comics as a writer and editor in Marvel Comics’ special projects office. Since then, Thomas has edited the monthly Marvel industry magazine Marvel Spotlight, written The Art of Iron Man and edited a series of coffee table art books highlighting the careers of artist luminaries like Joe Quesada, Marko Djurdjevic and Mike Deodato. In 2014, Thomas served as consulting editor and co-writer on Taschen’s 75 Years of Marvel Comics: From the Golden Age to the Silver Screen. Current projects include writing and editing The Marvel Legacy of Jack Kirby for Marvel, co-editing Stan Lee’s autobiography for Taschen, and producing a book/multimedia box set anthology of the life and musical legacy of The Byrds’ Gene Clark.
GENERAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS
Heritage Hall, University Center
Thursday April 9, 2015
4:30 - 6:30 PM

Odd-numbered posters will be presented from 4:30-5:30pm and even-numbered posters from 5:30-6:30pm. All project authors are listed; presenter’s name(s) are in italics.

1. Alex Fadoul, "An ideal society"; Faculty Mentor: Charlotte Thomas
2. Sarah Ugan, Christina Honey, Andrew Smith, Micheline Dieujuste-Antoine, Tabita Strimbu, Lexis Momon, Savanna Moody, Deneen Senasi, "Preceptor Project: Writing in the Disciplines"; Faculty Mentor: Deneen Senasi
3. Caroline Ravazzi, Bruna Santos, Kathryn Kloeppe, "Science Without Borders: A Comparative Overview From Two International Students of the American and Brazilian Science Educational Systems"; Faculty Mentor: Kathryn Kloeppe
4. Joseph Wozniak, "Mercer Tech Village"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sasha Tomic
5. Andrew Winslett, "Human Trafficking: It has to Stop"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson
6. Christine Okaro, Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, "Exploring the Impact of Globalization on African Youth through Social Media"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa
7. Margaret Solitario, "A Call for Preventative Action and the Childhood Obesity Epidemic in America"; Faculty Mentor: Aleksandar Tomis
8. Lindsey Parker, Bria Dunham, "Giving Birth in Georgia: Factors Associated with Women’s Plans for Labor and Delivery in a Southern U.S. State"; Faculty Mentor: Bria Dunham
9. Jessica Resnick, Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, "Assessment of the Social and Sexual Behavior of College Students in Georgia"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa
10. Leslie Graham, "The Impact of Engaging Video Content on the Advertising Effectiveness of Non-Profit Organizations"; Faculty Mentors: Dr. Linda Brennan, Dr. Tammy Crutchfield
11. David Stewart, "Self-Efficacy and Message Framing Effects on Food Choices"; Faculty Mentor: Amy Borchardt
12. Caleb Maier, Tanya Sharon, "The Effect of Size Manipulation on Comparisons of Fractions with Common Components"; Faculty Mentor: Sharon
13. Hannah Batten, Dr. Miranda Pratt, "Get Angry at the Eating Disorder: Effect of Anger on Reactivity to Food Cues"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Miranda Pratt
14. Katie Slusher, Miranda Pratt, "Disgust and Disordered Eating Explored: Self-Disgust Versus Disgust with Others and Anti-Fat Biases"; Faculty Mentor: Miranda Pratt
15. Kristen Hagaman, Jarred Jenkins, "Helping Behavior in Gerbils: A Bold Attempt to Link Personality to a Novel Prosocial Task"; Faculty Mentor: Jarred Jenkins
16. Daria Thompson, Dr. Miranda Pratt, "The Effects of Skin Tone and Body Size on Perceived Attractiveness in Black and White College Females"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Miranda Pratt
17. Victor Garcia, Thu Doan, Tin Nguyen, Kendall Hyatt, Craig Byron, "Comparing mouse hand and foot bones and the morphomechanical effects of climbing."; Faculty Mentor: Craig Byron
18. Davisha Patel, Kendall Hyatt, Craig Byron, "Tail use and its relationship to arboreality in a mouse model system"; Faculty Mentor: Craig Byron
19. Thu Doan, Tin Nguyen, Kendall Hyatt, Craig D. Byron, "The Morphomechanical Effects of Climbing on Mouse Tarsal Bones"; Faculty Mentor: Craig D. Byron
20. Vesta Nwankwo, Dr. Katharine Northcutt, "Strain and Sex Differences in Play Behavior in Juvenile Rats"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katharine Northcutt
22. Tin Nguyen, Thu Doan, Kendall Hyatt, Craig Byron, "Compact Bone Cellularity of the First Metatarsal in a Mouse Model for Pedal Grasping"; Faculty Mentor: Craig Byron
23. Rebecca Hutcheson, Washida Blackman, Priyancka Naik, Linda Hensel, "Comparing transformation efficiency of UV damaged DNA in Escherichia coli and Bacillus subtilis"; Faculty Mentor: Linda Hensel
24. Jacob Prock, Katelyn Herman, Shivam Patel, Craig Byron, "Using Herpes Simplex Virus as a Transneuronal Tracer of Somatosensory Pathways from Oral Tissues in a Mouse Model"; Faculty Mentor: Craig Byron
25. Morgan Smith, Trey Spillers, Chris Isennock, "Determination of Fish Species Richness in a Middle Georgia Stream"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smith
26. Annika Sinha, Mary Ziembza, Alan F. Smith, "Rickettsia rickettsii, the infective bacterial agent of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, in Dermacentor variabilis from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NC."; Faculty Mentor: Alan F. Smith
27. Michael Kshatri, Dr. Richard McCann, Angela Lowry, "Study of Talin Proteins in Zebrafish"; Faculty Mentors: Dr. Richard McCann, Angela Lowry
28. Jennelle Friesz, Charles Honey, Kimberlee Fernandez, Dr. Alan Smith, "Comparative Colonization Patterns of Hester-Dendy Samplers in Vegetated and Non-vegetated Sites of a Middle Georgia Pond"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alan Smith
29. Kelsy Cotto, Dr. Garland Crawford, "Creation of an anti-OGA antibody coupled column to investigate endogenous OGA"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Garland Crawford
30. Rachel O'Keefe, Dr. Garland Crawford, "Investigating Protein-Substrate Interactions of the Enzyme OGA"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Garland Crawford
31. Matthew Parker, "Determination of the Catalytic Role of Palladium Nanoparticles in Biomass Conversion Reactions"; Faculty Mentor: Dale Moore
32. Brooke Fenn, Kathryn Kloepper, "Determining the Sugar Content of Regionally-relevant Samples"; Faculty Mentor: Kathryn Kloepper
33. Kirsten Brown, Dr. Garland Crawford, "Studying the Binding and Active Sites of OGA using Computational and Experimental Methods"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Garland Crawford
34. Justis Ward, Kaydren Orcutt, Paden King, Kathryn Kloepper, Garland Crawford, "Analysis of a New and Versatile Biosurfactant: A Greener Alternative for Oil Remediation"; Faculty Mentors: Kathryn Kloepper, Garland Crawford
35. Michele Holmes, Ana West, "The DOPC/Cholesterol Bilayer Edge in Simulations - Structure and Edge Tension"; Faculty Mentor: Ana West
37. Charles Mann, Melissa Seward, Henry Thomas, “Test Pits in Paradise: Caribbean Archaeology on St Croix, USVI, March 7-14, 2015”; Faculty Mentor: Eric Klingelhofer

TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

University Brass Choir
Doug Hill, Conductor
Patio, McCorkle Music Building
Friday April 10, 2015
10:00 - 11:00 AM

The concert will feature an eclectic selection of repertoire that represents the literature studied over this past academic year. In addition to the Brass Choir, two featured presentations will include the virtuosically-demanding solo for euphonium entitled Harlequin by British-born composer Philip Sparke, Ryan Lambright soloist with the brass choir. Ryan is completing his Master of Music degree in Euphonium Performance. The second feature will include a special appearance by the Mercer Trombone Quartet. This concert of varied brass compositions is sure to please any music lover!

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<th>Drew Roberts</th>
<th>Zack Mikos</th>
<th>Cody Taylor</th>
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<td>Megan Cargin</td>
<td>Andrew Braley</td>
<td>Cameron Underwood</td>
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<td>Kirston Cox</td>
<td>Riley Chapman</td>
<td>Kyle Montgomery</td>
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<td>Carter Watkins</td>
<td>Jack Faulkner</td>
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<td>Ana Olsen</td>
<td>Beau Harper</td>
<td>Josh Bowman</td>
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TOWNSEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
POSTER PRESENTATIONS  
Corridor, McCorkle Music Building  
Friday April 10, 2015  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

1:00 - 2:00 PM
1. Laura Hartlage, “How Hormones Affect the Voice”  
2. James Hulett, “It’s Not Over Until the Fit Diva Sings”  
3. Kate Kasmier, “Effects of Music Therapy on Non-Vocal Autistic Children”  
6. Alexis Setteducato, “Paralyzed Vocal Fold Phonation”  
7. Errol W. Shaw, “The Pros and Cons of Developing the Young Voice”  
8. Randi Short, “Tone Deafness: Beating the Stereotype”  
9. Ruby Stillions, “The Effects of Weight and Health on the Singer”  
10. Kelsey HW Tinsman, “Pedagogical Exercises to Minimize the Effects of Spinal Deformities in Adolescent Singers”

2:00 -3:00 PM
11. Andrew Cumbow, “Vocal Technique and Choral ‘Blend’”  
12. Barbara Lissette Martinez, “How Performance Anxiety Interferes with the Singer’s Systematic Approach to Breathing”  
15. Rachel Snapp, “Effects of Singing Exercises on Snoring”  
16. McKinley Starks, “The Effects of tetrahydrocannabinol on the processes of singing”  
17. Betsy Swanson, “How Singing in Different Climates, Levels of Humidity, and Varying Elevations Affects the Voice”  
19. Dominique Williams, “The World of Bel Canto”  
20. Clay Young, “Methods in Teaching Healthy Belting”

Music Posters Organized by Rich Kosowski, Townsend School of Music
GENERAL ORAL PRESENTATIONS
Friday April 10, 2015

*Each presentation should last approximately 20-25 minutes, including Q & A. The second presentation will begin at 25 minutes after the hour. Sessions with three presenters will run 75 minutes with the third presentation beginning 50 minutes after the hour.*

All project authors are listed; presenter’s name(s) are in italics

Concurrent Session I
9:00 - 9:50

1. Unsolved Segregations  
   KNT 101
   
   Moderator: Theresa Rhodes
   *Kiana Beasley*, "The Persistence of the Racial Achievement Gap"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
   *Timothy Lewis*, "The Two Sides of Macon: A Public Policy Case Study of Segregation"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson

2. International Disputes  
   KNT 104
   
   Moderator: Fernando Palacios
   *Jackie Atchison*, "Talks about Talks: Perceptions of the Groote Schuur Minute"; Faculty Mentor: John Thomas Scott
   *Stephane Hosty*, Dr. Eimad Houry, "Israel and the State of Palestine"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry

3. Knowledge and Perception of Modern Medicine  
   KNT 203
   
   Moderator: Tanya Sharon
   *Kaylee Thompson*, "Mercer Student Perceptions of the Mentally Ill"; Faculty Mentor: Fletcher Winston
   *Jasmine Jackson*, "Assessing the level of HIV/AIDS knowledge in Macon, GA"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
What Made You Choose Mercer?
Whether you chose to earn your bachelor’s degree at Mercer because of its outstanding academic reputation, or because of the mentoring relationships you’re able to build with distinguished faculty, or because Mercer simply “felt right” the minute you stepped on campus, this important decision led you to join more than 70,000 alumni who proudly call themselves Mercerians. When you chose Mercer, you became part of a legacy of leaders and innovators who are passionate about making an impact in the communities they serve.

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See how Mercer can continue to support your personal and professional goals when you Make It Mercer Again!
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merceragain.mercer.edu
4. Philosophers and Leaders

Moderator: Rosalind Simson

James Boxton, "Machiavelli: Reading Beyond the Lines"; Faculty Mentor: Will Jordan
William Bradford, "The Philosopher-General: Xenophon and the Art of Leadership"; Faculty Mentor: Charlie Thomas

5. Shaping Minds in Fact and Fiction

Moderator: Lori Johnson

Andrew Clanton, "Industrial Propaganda: How Roosevelt, Labor, and Big Business Shaped America’s Most Important Propaganda Genre of World War Two"; Faculty Mentor: John Thomas Scott
Justis Ward, "Panem: A Dystopian World from Utopian Concepts"; Faculty Mentor: Anna Silver

6. Home Away from Home: Life at Mercer

Moderator: Craig McMahan

Victoria Plourde, Dr. Jeffrey Denny, "Addressing the Room Assignment Problem"; Faculty Mentor: Jeffrey Denny
Deshonda Lemon, Kaitlynn Jones, "College is the new home"; Faculty Mentor: Fletcher Winston

Concurrent Session II
10:00 - 10:50

1. Policies and Strategies

Moderator: Kimberly Freeman

Maren Skott-Myhre, Geoffrey Ngene, "Information Transmission and Hedging Strategies: Evidence from Oil Price Risk and Stock Markets of Frontier Countries"; Faculty Mentor: Geoffrey Ngene
Ashley Smith, Madeline Domino, "A Framework of Healthcare Fraud and the Possible Implications to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act"; Faculty Mentor: Madeline Domino

2. Coming of Age

Moderator: Jarred Jenkins

Shanette Adams, "Going Global With Youth"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
Katherine Adams, Trisha Philip, "Mercer Students' Attitudes Towards the Problem of Teenage Pregnancy"; Faculty Mentor: Fletcher Winston
3. Fateful Voyages in Fact and Fiction  KNT 203
Moderator: Robert Good
Paden King, "Faulkner: Martinique"; Faculty Mentor: David Davis
Rudy Bond, "Surprise! Sir Francis Drake's 1587 Raid on Cadiz"; Faculty Mentor: John Thomas Scott

4. Medical Conundrums  KNT 207
Moderator: Rosalind Simson
Tori Surber, "The Right to Choose: Decision Making in Regards to the Resuscitation of Micro-preemies"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
Louvette Neal, Dr. Eimad Houry, "Ebola in Liberia"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry

5. Myth and Fable in European Literature  KNT 303
Moderator: Randy Harshbarger
Robert Renfro, "The Significance of the Territory of Segesta in Vergil, Aeneid 5"; Faculty Mentor: Achim Kopp
Emily Farlow, "The Universality of Jean de la Fontaine: Human Experience, Values, and Republicanism"; Faculty Mentor: Anna Weaver

6. Mathematical Marvels  KNT 308
Moderator: Bob Allen
Sara Stover, Carolyn Yackel, "Let Me See You Flex: Exploring Flexgons"; Faculty Mentor: Carolyn Yackel
Jack Yoon, "Golden Ratio, Fibonacci Sequence, and Pascal's Triangle"; Faculty Mentor: Curtis Herink

7. Genes  STN 251
Moderator: Bridget Trogden
David Cobb, Monique Singhal, Dr. Amy Wiles, "Use of a Knockout Library to Identify Saccharomyces cerevisiae Genes Required to Maintain Viability during Sulfur Starvation"; Faculty Mentor: Amy Wiles
Robert Akers, Maia Nichols, Ashana Thaker, Dr. Amy Wiles, Dr. Clay Pandorf, "Transcriptomes and Tuxedo: Analyzing Rat Fast Twitch and Endurance Muscle Transcriptomes Using Bioinformatics Analysis of RNA-Seq"; Faculty Mentors: Amy Wiles, Clay Pandorf
Concurrent Session III
11:00 - 11:50
(unless otherwise noted)

1. Systematic Philosophy (11:00 am - 12:15 pm) KNT 101
   Moderator: Bryan Whitfield
   Ryan Walters, "Exploring Anselm's Proslogion as Agenda: Arguing for the Use of Philosophy and for the Model of God that Philosophy Proposes"; Faculty Mentor: Creighton Rosental
   Anna Kersey, "Get Over Yourself"; Faculty Mentor: Charlotte Thomas

2. Issues Women Face (11:00 am-12:15 pm) KNT 108
   Moderator: Beth Hammond
   LauraClara Kirkpatrick, “What Factors Influence how Women perceive beauty?”; Faculty Mentor: Fletcher Winston
   Lauren Williams, “Women and Aging: Ageism and The Natural Face and Body vs. The Unnatural Face and Body”; Faculty Mentor: Natalie Bourdon
   Deanna Smith, Esha Singh, Cody Jones, Traffick Jam, “Mercer University Marketing Majors on Sex Trafficking in Central Georgia”; Faculty Mentor: Tammy Crutchfield

3. Improving Macon KNT 203
   Moderator: Jim Hunt
   Tabita Strimbu, "The Macon Parks Alliance: Researching Macon’s Parks"; Faculty Mentor: Andrew Silver
   Cory Zeller, "Finding Common Ground: Student Access to LGBT Resources in Bibb County School District High Schools"; Faculty Mentors: Natalie Bourdon, Chris Grant

4. Food and Farming in Macon KNT 210
   Moderator: Amy Gratz
   Taylor Jolly, "Impact of Community on Individual Food Security in Macon GA"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
   Haley Graham, "GMO Effects and the Perceptions of Georgia Farmers"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry
5. Christian Revivalism

Moderator: Darlene Flaming

Chris Shaw, "Marketing Christianity: How Charles Finney Reformed Revivalism"; Faculty Mentor: Lake Lambert

Joseph Jackson, III, "The Spirit & the Alternative Society: The Founding of Alleluia Community"; Faculty Mentor: John Thomas Scott

6. Math and Music

Moderator: Jennifer Royal

Caroline Payne, Victoria Yrizarry, "Engaging Children Through Music: A Senior Service Scholar Project"; Faculty Mentors: David Keith, Richard Kosowski, Mary Alice Morgan, Chris Grant, Carolyn Goff

Edward White, Margaret Symington, Chris Schmitz, "Geometry of Musical Chords"; Faculty Mentors: Margaret Symington, Chris Schmitz

7. Cells

Moderator: Kevin Bucholtz

Utkarsh Parwal, Richard McCann, "The Origins of Animal Multicellularity: Functional Constraints and Sequence Divergence in Coevolution of Proteins in the Core Adhesome"; Faculty Mentor: Richard McCann

Brandon Reagan, Joshua Bembenek, "Investigating the Role of Separase in the Regulation of Exocytosis in Caenorhabditis elegans"; Faculty Mentors: Joshua Bembenek, Amy Wiles

Concurrent Session IV

1:00 - 1:50

1. Housing

Moderator: Paul Lewis

Alfred Lee, Susan Li, Maren Skott-Myhre, Anitha Manohar, "Bank on Program: Macon"; Faculty Mentor: Anitha Manohar

Daniel Sohn, Geoffrey Ngene, "Herding Behavior in the United States Housing Market: Evidence from Direct Housing Prices"; Faculty Mentor: Geoffrey Ngene
2. Law and Punishment

Moderator: John Thomas Scott

Michael Lirette, Derek Wojcik, "Student Opinion of Law Enforcement"; Faculty Mentor: Fletcher Winston

Samuel Strickland, "Shutting the Revolving Door: How Judicial Reform can lower the Recidivism Rate"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson

3. Policy and Prosperity

Moderator: Geoffrey Ngene

Amanda Pugsley, "The Earned Income Tax Credit: Thresholds and Assistance"; Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Morris

Precious Patterson, "Effects of Binding Minimum Wage on Labor Force Participation Rate at the Local Level"; Faculty Mentor: Aleksandar Tomic

4. Children in Literature and Life

Moderator: Elizabeth Harper

Taelor Rye, "The Portrayal of Morality and Immorality through the Treatment of Children in Jane Eyre"; Faculty Mentor: Anna Silver

Angellica Howard, "The Perceptions of Women’s Birthing Style: Home births vs. Hospitalized Births"; Faculty Mentors: Dr. Eimad Houry, Dr. Amy Nichols-Belo

5. Numbers Sense

Moderator: Carolyn Yackel

J.T. James, Tanner Perrin, Dr. Allen Lynch, Dr. Andrew Pounds, "Golf Like the Pros: The Sweet Spots and Pitfalls at TPC Sawgrass"; Faculty Mentors: Allen Lynch, Andrew Pounds

Parker Benefield, Dr. Geoffrey Ngene, "Asymmetric and Nonlinear Adjustments and Dynamic Correlation Patterns: Evidence from Sovereign Credit Risk Markets"; Faculty Mentor: Geoffrey Ngene

6. Silver Solutions

Moderator: Garland Crawford

Ramupriya Vaithi, Jeffrey Mimbs, Dr. Caryn Seney, "Part I: Investigation of the Surface Effects of Ag Nanoparticles in Solution"; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Caryn Seney

Jeffrey Mimbs, Ramupriya Vaithi, Dr. Caryn Seney, "Part II. Investigation of the Surface Effects of Ag Nanoparticles in Solution."; Faculty Mentor: Dr. Caryn Seney
Concurrent Session V
2:00 - 2:50
(unless otherwise noted)

1. Philosophy in the Modern World (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm) KNT 101
   Moderator: Lake Lambert
   Joseph Lasprogata, "Essay Concerning Human Understanding and the Hallucinogenic Experience"; Faculty Mentor: Creighton Rosental
   Caleb Maier, "Firing Morgan’s Canon: How Animal Psychology’s “Most Important Sentence” Kills Animals (And What We Should Do About It)"; Faculty Mentor: Rosalind Simson
   Jackson Brown, "A Novel Philosophy"; Faculty Mentor: David Ritchie

2. Sexual Education and Exploitation (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm) KNT 108
   Moderator: Margaret Morris
   Brianne Bower, "An Evaluation of the Bibb County Board of Education’s Sex Education Curriculum"; Faculty Mentors: Eimad Houry, Amy Nichols-Belo
   Nancey Price, "The Effects of Sexual Education: Knowledge & Attitudes"; Faculty Mentor: Natalie Bourdon
   Caroline Payne, “Perspectives on Domestic Violence and American Media: How the Question ‘Why did you stay?’ Affects Victims”; Faculty Mentors: Natalie Bourdon, Janell Johnson, Mary Ann Drake

3. Rankings and Ratings KNT 203
   Moderator: Linda Brennan
   Tyler Allee, Dr. Hope McIlwain, Dr. Jeffrey Denny, "Using Sage for Rating and Ranking"; Faculty Mentors: Hope McIlwain, Jeffrey Denny
   Jonathan Beall, Tyler Allee, Dr. Aleksander Tomic, Dr. Hope McIlwain, "Trade Wars"; Faculty Mentors: Aleksander Tomic, Hope McIlwain, Antonio Saravia

4. Law and Public Policy Panel (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm) KNT 207
   Moderator: Fletcher Winston
   Rachel Paul, "A Policy Analysis: The Preservation of Macon History"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson
   Rebekah Fulton, "Hidden In Plain Sight"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson
   Nicole Esuola, "Working is Not Enough for the Poor. So, How can We Help the ‘Working Poor’?"; Faculty Mentor: Lori Johnson
5. Education Outside the Box (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm)  
**KNT 210**  
Moderator: Beth Hammond  
*Blaze Jeffery, Rachel Buffalo,* "Decoding Freedom: Supporting a Not-for-Profit Company"; Faculty Mentor: Tammy Crutchfield  
*Aileen Richards,* "Evaluating and Exporting Technical Vocational Education and Training Programs"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry  
*Jamel Johnson,* "Game Theory of Minecraft: Effect of Having Agency in Open World Games"; Faculty Mentor: Eimad Houry

6. Immigration in Contemporary America (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm)  
**KNT 303**  
Moderator: Laura Botts  
*Raymond-Mark Partolan,* "Undocumented Students and Access to Higher Education: Policymaking and its Impact on Individuals and Families"; Faculty: Lori Johnson  
*Shanxuan Li, Jordin Post,* Dr. Aleksandar Tomic, Dr. Antonio Saravia, "Impact of Immigration on Individual States in the US"; Faculty Mentors: Aleksandar Tomic, Antonio Saravia  
*Raymond Ko,* "Analysis of Cultural Effects on Chinese Community in Atlanta, Georgia and Isolation from the Rest of the Communities in Georgia"; Faculty: Eimad Houry

7. Sexuality in Literature (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm)  
**KNT 308**  
Moderator: Anna Weaver  
*Alex Mooring,* "Examining and Exposing Sexuality: Unveiling in *Salome*"; Faculty Mentor: Julian Thompson  
*Lauren Maxwell,* "Cross-Dressed Theatre: A Justification of Gender-Changes in Shakespeare’s Plays-within-Plays"; Faculty Mentor: Deneen Senasi  
*Mariah Hankins,* "Bertha: A Negation of The Angel in the House"; Faculty: Anna Silver

8. Disease (2:00 pm - 3:15 pm)  
**STN 251**  
Moderator: Amy Wiles  
*Haley Herrington,* Dr. Robert Visalli, Dr. Melissa Visalli, "Structure-Function Analysis of the Varicella-Zoster Virus Portal Protein (pORF54)"; Faculty Mentors: Robert Visalli, Melissa Visalli  
*Gina John,* Dr. Olga Uchakina, Dr. Robert McKallip, "Treatment with the Hyaluronic Acid Synthase Inhibitor 4-MU Sensitizes Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia to Treatment with Doxorubicin."; Faculty Mentors: Olga Uchakina, Robert McKallip  
*Jennifer Nguyen,* Dr. David Goode, "Dynamic Combinatorial Screening for Optimal Binders of the Pentavalent B-Subunit of Cholera Toxin"; Faculty: David Goode
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Session Moderators
already named in the program

Poster and Presentation Judges

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Student Administrative Assistant

Lea Josey
WHERE DO WE COME FROM?
WHAT ARE WE?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

A SENIOR ART EXHIBITION

OPENING RECEPTION:
APRIL 10 @ THE 567
(533 CHERRY STREET)
6 - 9 PM

RUNNING THROUGH
APRIL 27
REGULAR HOURS
11 - 4 PM
Mercer University’s
Fifth Annual BEAR DAY
Breakthroughs in Engagement, Arts and Research
April 9-10, 2015

The Engaged Learning Committee Members:
Bob Allen, Chair
Kevin Bucholtz
Craig Coleman
Jarred Jenkins
Gordon Johnston
Jennifer Royal
John Thomas Scott
Rosalind Simson

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Designed by: Jaryd A. Kromsky